THE TIMES

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THE TIMES 1785-1985

Tomorrow

Jacuzzi-land
The best of Britain's health farms

Heart of darkness
Up the Zambezi with canoe and paddle

Yes Prime Minister
Paul Eddington on playing the new man in Downing Street

Weekend sport
Preview of rugby, football, cricket tennis and four race meetings

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won on Tuesday by Mr A Watter, of Sevenoaks, Kent. Today, another £2,000 can be won. Portfolio list page 16; how to play, Information Service, back page.
Tomorrow there is £22,000 worth of Portfolio prizes to be won – £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

1985 boom year for home prices

House prices in 1985 increased by more than 10 per cent for the first time in five years, according to the Anglia Building Society. The society's market survey shows that on average price rises in the South are nearly two and a half times those in the North Page 3

General dies

Sir James Marshall-Cornwall, Britain's oldest general, has died in a nursing home in Malton, North Yorkshire, aged 98. His funeral will take place on Saturday Obituary, page 14

Cabinet pay gap

The Prime Minister and her Cabinet colleagues will continue to receive less than their most senior civil service advisers despite of a £2,020 salary increase Page 4

Battle to beat schizophrenia

A recent series of articles in *The Times* on schizophrenia 'the forgotten illness', prompted many readers to send touching accounts of their struggle to cope with it
Talkback, Page 11

Grishin out

The purge of Kremlin dead wood continues, with Mr Viktor Grishin, Moscow's party chief, the latest to feel the Gorbachov axe Page 5

Baby food tests

Tests are still being made to trace the source of an outbreak of salmonella food infection which has been linked with powdered baby milk products Page 3

Phones watch

Three thousand telephone "watchdogs" are to be appointed by the Office of Telecommunications (Oftel) to monitor the quality of service to telephone subscribers Page 3

Mali bombed

Burkina Faso said its Air Force had launched a raid on a southern Malian town in a further escalation of the two-day war between the neighbouring African states
Earlier report, page 7

Hunting blow

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals yesterday launched a campaign against fox hunting, timed to coincide with the traditional Boxing Day meets Page 3

Everton threat

Everton moved into contention for the first division football title, beating the leaders Manchester United on a day when second-placed Liverpool also lost Page 18

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Westland denies air jobs would be hit

- Westland denied yesterday that thousands of British avionics firms would be jeopardized by a deal with Sikorsky, as claimed by senior government sources.
- Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, cancelled a foreign holiday due to start tomorrow as the political struggle over the company intensified.
- An improvement on the European consortium's £37 million offer of assistance is expected today as a counter to Sikorsky's "guarantee" of work.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The political battle over the Westland helicopter company hotted up last night with a claim by senior government sources that the United Technologies-Fiat deal would jeopardize thousands of jobs in the British avionics industry. Westland quickly denied this suggestion.

The sources said that while Westland would be expected to build the airframe for the Sikorsky Black Hawk, the foundation for the bid, and whiL the engines would be built by Rolls-Royce, navigational and electronic equipment, missiles and radar would be held back by the Americans. Ministry of Defence sources have been saying that one third of the value of each helicopter could be lost to Britain. It has been estimated that this could amount to a loss of £2 million on each order, in terms of jobs and equipment.

Although United Technologies have refused publicly to join in the political and commercial warfare over the offer for a minority stake in Westland, corporate sources have emphatically denied the charge that they plan to turn Westland into a "metal-bashing" operation.

But Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday cancelled a family holiday in Nepal, due to start tomorrow, to be on hand for the mounting campaign for the Anglo-European counter-offer.

It was said last night that British Aerospace and GEC were strong supporters of the counter-offer to defend their order-books.

One source said that apart from the 700 redundancies announced by Westland, thousands of other ancillary jobs could be put at risk by the United Technologies-Fiat offer. "There would be firms at stake."

Westland last night rejected suggestions that if Sikorsky won a stake in the company it would lead to only American avionics and weapons systems being fitted.

The argument did not correspond with experience with Sikorsky or with the way deals were arranged, the company said. The Sikorsky Sea King helicopters built by Westland under licence were almost totally "Anglicized".

International deals usually involved off-set arrangements in which work was done in the customer country, with the customer often specifying the avionics or weapons he wanted.

Comment 15

While Westland directors, bankers, shareholders and workforce are weighing up the advantages of the two offers on the table the new claim about job threats outside Westland will increase the political stakes.

It was said by senior political sources last night that the Westland board would be unable to hold the extraordinary meeting of shareholders scheduled for January 14, because Sikorsky was "so desperate" to buy its way into the European market that it would be bound to outbid the new Ango-European offer.

By that time Parliament will have returned from its Christmas break and government sources were confident of such a build-up of backbench Conservative pressure that the Prime Minister's hand would be forced in favour of the Ango-European bid.

Conservative backbench support for Mr Heseltine's case was said to be coming from left, right and centre of the party.

Mr Michael Mates, a senior Conservative member of the Commons Select Committee on Defence, last night posed some "key questions" on the Sikorsky guarantees in the United Technologies-Fiat offer.

He questioned potential sales of Black Hawk and the "effect on the British avionic-electronics-weapons industry of any Sikorsky licence to Westland."

Continued on back page, col 6

Europeans prepare firmer work offer

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The European consortium backed by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, is likely today to improve its £37 million offer of assistance to Westland, the British helicoptor manufacturer, by making a firmer offer of work for the next few years.

On Monday the directors of Westland had sought clarification of the European offer, which had been put forward as a rival to a package proposed by the American and Italian companies, Sikorsky and Fiat.

The directors raised a nuber of points, but one in particular concerned the quantity of work which the two groups were offering. Sikorsky had offered a "guaranteed" one million man hours over three years, while the Europeans, who are led by GEC and British Aerospace, had offered a "commitment" of 3.3 million man-hours over five years. The Westland board says that the European "commitment" is not as firm as the Sikorsky "guarantee".

Mr David Horne, managing director of Lloyds merchant bank, acting for the European consortium, said yesterday he would be drafting a reply to the Westland questions today. He hoped it would be possible to come up with something that would be recognized as meeting Westland's needs and as being better than the Sikorsky offer on man hours.

What appears to be in prospect is that the Europeans, while maintaining their commitment to provide 3.3 million man-hours over five years, will, within that total, offer something close to a firm "guarantee" of work load for three years that will be larger than the man-hours guaranteed by Sikorsky.

Westland's position received a boost on Christmas Eve when it was announced in New Delhi that India was to acquire 21 Westland W30 helicopters for its off-shore oil operations. The deal is worth about £65 million, almost all of which will be financed out of British government aid.

This order has taken three years to achieve, having been delayed for a year because of Indian resentment that the British government did not do more to restrain the activities of members of the Sikh community in Britain after the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Some of the flight procedures of the W30 have been modified after complaints by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime

Continued on back page, col 5

Police storm flat after hurling stun grenades



Officers from the Metropolitan Police tactical firearms unit breaking into the third floor flat at Northolt, Middlesex, to rescue Carlene.

Thames Barrier raised as rain causes chaos

By Greg Neale

Temperatures fell sharply throughout most of Britain last night as wintry conditions brought chaos to the Christmas holiday period.

For southern and south-western England the cold weather came after one of the wettest Christmases on record. There was flooding in many parts, isolating a number of villages, making many roads impassable and causing widespread damage. Sporting fixtures were also disrupted.

Police warned motorists to exercise more than usual caution today as icy roads were predicted to greet many motorists returning to work after the holiday.

In Scotland and exposed parts of north-easten England and East Anglia, snow was also forecast as the weekend approached. While the heavy rains were dying out last night in all but the south-eastern England, there were fears that the combination of swollen rivers and gales in the North Sea could cause further flooding.

The Thames Barrier was raised at 8pm last night as rainwater swelled the river by as much as three feet above flood in places. It was seen as the first major test for the barrier since it was opened in May 1984.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Thames Division said it was hoped that raising the barrier some five hours before the hight tide, at 1.38am today would keep the tide "trickling rather than roaring in".

Earlier, the Thames burst its banks in several places, as did rivers at Winterbourne, near Bristol, at Laycock in Wiltshire, at Taunton, Chard, Dulverton, Frome and Wells in Somerset, in Devon, Wiltshire, Suffolk and Essex.

Roads were impassable in many parts, including the A6 in Hertfordshire between London Colney and South Mimms, and numerous minor roads in Devon, Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire.

The A30 was closed at Honiton, Devon. Nearby, floodwater – said by the Automobile Association to be "at hedge height in some places" – was four feet deep on the A303.

Serious flooding closed the A35 Exeter to Dorchester road at Axminster. In Suffolk, the A12 was also covered in places.

The Metropolitan Police said that many roads in London had been hit by flooding because drains could not cope with the volume of water. London had one inch of rain in 24 hours, one-third of the capital's usual rainfall for all of December, a London Weather Centre spokesman said.

Thousands of acres of farmland were flooded in low-lying parts of Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire. In Somerset, where four inches of rain fell in three days, a special flood control centre was opened in Bridgwater by the Wessex Water Authority. Some houses were flooded to a depth of several feet in the areas around Yeovil, Taunton and Shepton Mallet.

The Somerset fire brigade dealt with 110 calls to pump out flooded homes in the 24 hours up to midday yesterday.

In Essex, flooding also threatened homes, and sandbags were used to keep floodwaters at bay in Hadleigh.

Continued on back page, col 3

Fund ballots should stay, says TUC

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

A future Labour government should retain political fund ballots introduced by the Conservatives, the TUC says in a report out today. But the paper also favours a law which would impose a similar democratic obligation on companies which donate money to the Conservative Party.

The call to keep the ballots contrasts with the Labour movement's initial opposition and comes after a unanimous "yes" vote from the unions which have consulted their members on retaining financial links with the Labour Party.

A consultative document sent out to all 91 TUC affiliates says: "The trade union movement's central criticism of the 1984 Trade Union Act's provisions on political funds is that the Act provides for the further regulation of unions' political activities while companies continue to be exempt form any legal restrictions equivalent to those applying to trade unions. This inequitable situation cannot be allowed to continue."

The paper calls for comments from unions which will then be summarized and presented to a special conference of senior union officials on March 19.

Other parts of the 1984 Act have also had a "significant impact" on trade unions and the report calls for an amended version of clauses which render unions liable to civil action if they do not hold secret strike ballots. The paper favours a system whereby companies or management would not have recourse to law, but union members could win an order enforcing a ballot where appropriate.

Details, page 2

Girl rescued after 29-hour siege

Police shot a man twice as a four year old girl was slashed in the neck ending a siege that began on Christmas Day after the girl's mother was stabbed to death.

Errol Walker, aged 30, suffered head wounds when the police fired three shots as they stormed the west London council flat and snatched the girl, Carlene, from him.

Moments earlier he had slammed the door on them thwarting an attempt to grab him when he made a foray alone onto the third floor balcony to pick up a discarded riot shield.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police C11 tactical firearms unit smashed windows and hurled two stun grenades into the flat when he shouted he was going to stab Carlene.

The police smashed windows with their gun butts and started battering down the door. When the grenades exploded at least three officers scrambled through the shattered windows as dense smoke billowed from the flat.

Shortly afterwards Carlene was carried out and taken to North Ealing Hospital. She was later transferred to Mount Vernon Hospital where she was treated for knife wounds to her neck and arm.



Errol Walker, carrying Carlene, talks to police.

Mr Walker was last night admitted to the National Hospital which specializes in neurosurgery. He was said to be conscious and comfortable.

The 29-hour siege began when Carlene's mother, Jackie Childs, aged 22, thought to be the stepsister of Mr Walker's wife, staggered fatally wounded from the third floor flat in Poynter Court Northolt.

Patricia Walker, aged six, was rescued unharmed, but Mr Walker kept Carlene prisoner. Armed with a carving knife he made several appearances on the balcony carrying the little girl and firemen carrying blankets waited beneath in case the girl fell.

The police, led by Commander Brian Sparks, from Southall, prepared to sit out the siege and early yesterday they brought in floodlights in case it continued through a second night. They allowed food into the flat, beans on toast for Mr Walker and warm milk for Carlene.

Scotland Yard negotiators, led by Chief Superintendents Peter Kruger and David Vaness, kept Mr Walker talking through a window and a landline.

While they tried to pacify him a woman relative, believed to be Mr Walker's wife, took him a cup of coffee and held hands with Carlene through a broken window.

A woman armed with a large hammer, and a knife held police at bay for two hours while she threatened to injure her two young children in a flat in Kenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A Northumbria police spokesman said the woman, aged 30, was disarmed after a brief struggle.

New crisis feared in Liverpool

Fresh reinforcements of Militant extremists are likely to take the place of Labour's 48 Liverpool council rebels if they are disqualified from office, ministers believe. They are afraid that the result will be a new crisis in the city.

But Sir Trevor Jones, the council's Liberal leader, predicted that a local by-election in the city's Old Swan ward on January 9 could end in a "spectacular defeat" for Militant.

He believed the court hearings for the disqualification of the 48 would be finished in time for replacement elections in May which could give the Liberals an overall majority.

Although some Labour sources have suggested that as many as 100 Militants could be expelled from the Liverpool Labour Party early next year, Sir Trevor said yesterday that there was no chance of Labour shaking off its local Militant domination.

Page 2

Museveni's warning to Kampala killers

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Mr Yoweri Museveni, leader of the National Resistance Army guerrillas who recently signed a peace pact with the Ruling Military Council in Uganda, said yesterday that his forces would take action to control the situation if the widespread killings by unruly Uganda soldiers did not stop. Speaking here after returning from south west Uganda – which is still controlled by NRA forces – Mr Museveni said more than 60 people, including whole families, have been killed in the Kampala area since the peace agreement was signed on December 17.

On one night alone, 40 vehicles were stolen and used to carry looted goods. Even Christmas night saw heavy shooting and more loss of life in Kampala, he said.

Mr Museveni dismissed suggestions that certain "bad elements", such as former Amin soldiers, were trying to prevent implementation of the peace agreement. This was no justification for allowing killings to continue.

"If this wanton killing of innocent people continues, NRA will have no choice but to act in any way it deems necessary in defence of the population and of the peace agreement," he said. "We will punish anyone who contravenes the agreement."

He said he did not believe General Okello, the Ugandan head of state, had ordered or condoned the killings. But other military officers must accept responsibility for them. The Military Council had made no effort to control the soldiers

Mr Museveni said he and the NRA remained strongly committed to the peace agreement, and would act to ensure its success if necessary.

Asked when he would visit Kampala and take his seat as Deputy Chairman of the Military Council, he said: "I will go there when the implementation process is sorted out."

British aid, page 7

Truce accord raises little hope in a bleak Beirut

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

It was, in more senses than one, a bleak, windswept Christmas in Beirut.

The Syrians, it is true, announced again that a lasting ceasefire now seemed certain in Lebanon after the Druze, Shia Muslim and Phalanist militia leaderships had reached agreement in Damascus to stop fighting – a truce to end all truces which was greeted with understandable lack of interest by the Lebanese.

A day earlier, Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, had left Beirut empty-handed, having asked for – and failed to secure – the release of the four Amercian hostages. He travelled home on the last flight to London, talking of a "setback" in his negotiations with the Islamic Jahad kidnappers of the four abducted men but apparently determined to return.

Saddest, indeed grimmest of all was the discovery made inside a ruined church on the rainy morning of Christmas. In the smashed building in the old commercial district near Riad Solh Square, the body of one of Lebanon's few Jewish citizens was found. He had been brutally murdered, shot three times in the head and chest after his captors had demanded the release of Shia Muslim prisoners in a jail controlled by Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia just north of the Israeli border.

Chaim Cohen Halala, aged 39, was a leading member of his country's tiny Jewish community who had worked for many years in the Hamra Street area of west Beirut where he was known to his business friends as "Haik".

His killers, who called themselves "The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth", claimed in a statement afterwards that they had murdered Mr Halala in revenge for the SLA shelling of Shia villages in southern Lebanon last week, in which the police reported that five people had died.

The killing of Mr Halala later prompted a response from Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, who stated that Israel would "protect Jews wherever we can" but that his country would "not hold contacts or conduct negotiations with anyone who regards Jews as hostages".

Three other Lebanese Jews – Isaac Sasson, the head of Lebanon's Jewish community, Isaac Tarrab, and Elie Srour – are being held by the same group which killed Mr Halala.

As for the latest "peace" agreement in Damascus, Lebanese state radio said yesterday that it would be signed before the new year. However, many militias in Lebanon – including Sunni forces in Sidon and Tripoli, Palestinian guerrilla groups and several Shia movements in Beirut – have taken no part in the discussions.

The agreement is believed to include a formal armistice which will be initialled on Monday in Damascus by Mr Nabih Beri, the Shia leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt of the Druze militia and Mr Elie Hobeika, the man whom the Israelis blamed for leading the Christian Phalangists who massacred hundreds of Palestinian civilians in Beirut in September, 1982.

● Family Christmas: Mr Waite, after returning from Beirut, spent a quiet Christmas with his family in London.

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هكذا من الأصل

Liverpool faces new threat of Militant disruption despite clean-up moves

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Ministers are afraid that Liverpool is heading for a new round of Militant-led local government crisis in the new year, in spite of Labour plans to take on Merseyside's Trotskyists.

Government sources believe that even if the courts disqualify Labour's 48 Liverpool council rebels from office, there are many more Militants waiting in the wings to take their place.

An they suspect that the hard core of Labour voters in the city will have been so taken in by the extremes of Militant propaganda that they will automatically replace the Labour rebels with their sideline "substitutes."

But Sir Trevor Jones, leader of the Liberal group on the council, said yesterday that he hoped for a breakthrough in the May elections.

He said that a local by-election in the city's Old Swan ward on January 9 could see Militant suffer a "spectacular defeat."

Sir Trevor also said he thought that court hearings on the disqualification of Labour's councillors, starting with a hearing in the High Court on January 13, will have been completed in time for replacement elections to be held in May.

He said that the Liberals could be in the running for 23 gains which, in addition to their current 30-strong contingent, would give them an overall majority.

But he agreed that there was no chance of Labour getting rid of the Militant domination of the local Labour party.

The Liberal leader said: "They are like clones. If Hatton was silenced in mid-sentence there are at least a dozen others who could carry on with the same speech. I can't see the Labour party being able to rid this city of Militant."

Some Labour sources have suggested that as many as 100 Militants could be expelled from the Liverpool Labour party early next year.

Sir Trevor said: "Militant is the Labour party in Liverpool. Kinnock is not going to clean it up by getting rid of 100 of them".

Ministers agree with that conclusion, but they also believe that Sir Trevor is being over-optimistic about his chances in the May elections; they suspect that the city is heading for a new round of crisis and confrontation in which the losers will be the 500,000 population – and Labour's national reputation.

But if the Liberals do make their hoped-for breakthrough on the crest of an anti-Militant backlash, they will be pressing a case for more government money.

Sir Trevor said: "Liverpool has had a raw deal. They have got to give us more money. If not, they're in for a bumpy ride".

● As part of his anti-Militant campaign, Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), has called for a secret ballot to elect officials to the union's biggest branch in the Department of Health and Social Security, Newcastle (Our Labour Reporter writes).

The branch officials, who led the abortive stoppage at the department, are elected at the annual general meeting where only a "couple of hundred" members might attend out of a total of 5,000, Mr Graham said.

Writing in the current issue of *Red Tape*, the union's newspaper, Mr Graham said that secret ballots should be held in all CPSA branches.

Drink-drive campaign has limited success

The huge police clampdown on drink-driving over Christmas appeared to be having only limited success up to yesterday.

Early figures from forces around Britain showed many drivers were willing to risk losing their licence, in spite of more police on traffic duty and a vigorous publicity campaign. However, some counties showed a drop in the number of positive breath tests compared with 1984, evidence that some motorists heeded the warnings.

In Avon and Somerset, 101 drivers were arrested under the drink-driving laws between December 15 and December 23, compared with 114 in the same period last year.

In South Wales, there were 77 positive tests over the 10 days, compared with 90 in 1984. Drivers in rural Norfolk were on their best behaviour. A police spokesman said there were only five positive breath tests on Christmas Eve, and just one on Christmas Day.

It was a different story in Sussex, with 16 positive tests on Christmas Eve.

Overall, 342 drivers have been arrested since the beginning of December, and Mr Roger Birch Chief Constable of Sussex, said: "Too many motorists are prepared to take a chance."

In Sussex, 22 per cent of those breath-tested were above the legal limit, compared with Nottinghamshire, where only 9 per cent of tests proved positive – 77 drivers out of 2,500 stopped.

Britain's largest force, the Metropolitan Police, said that figures would not be available until the new year, and only one of Scotland's regions, Strathclyde, had any statistics. It reported 10 positive breath tests and one driver refusing to give a sample; the same figures as last year.

This Christmas has seen more police on traffic duty than in 1984, when numbers were stretched by the miners' strike.

Mr Birch, who is co-ordinating the national campaign, said he believed this year's "clear, unequivocal message" not to drink and drive, from the Department of Transport, was an improvement on 1984.



Sir Richard Evans, British Ambassador to China, hits out during an impromptu cricket match yesterday on the frozen lake of Peking's Summer Palace. A Boxing Day celebration is an annual event for British residents

19 injured by gas cylinder set off in public house

Nineteen people were treated in hospital for eye and throat irritation after a gas cylinder was discharged on Christmas Eve in a crowded public house in Kendal, police in Cumbria disclosed yesterday.

None of the casualties was detained. Police inquiries were continuing yesterday into the origin of the cylinder which contained an "irritant type" gas.

Elsewhere Christmas festivities were also marred by violence:

Monmouth: Eight men were remanded in custody by Pontypool magistrates yesterday after disturbances in Monmouth, Gwent, in which a police van was overturned and several shop windows smashed.

Littlehampton: Scores of drunken youths screaming "Kill the Bill" were involved in a Christmas Eve brawl outside a public house in Littlehampton, West Sussex, in which one policeman was severely injured and several others were hurt. (police Constable Colin Walker, a dog handler, was punched in the face and kicked to the ground.

Brighton: Doctors have operated on Mrs Alison Middleton, aged 24, who suffered a serious eye injury when she was struck in the face with a glass at a public house in Brighton, Sussex, on Christmas Day. a woman aged 24 has been charged in connection with the incident.

A boy aged 15 who was stabbed in the stomach early on Christmas Day in Brighton is recovering in hospital. Police have interviewed four men and they have been granted bail pending further inquiries.

Scarborough: Detectives are investigating an incident at a discotheque after the death of Mr John Wrona, aged 34, the manager. Mr Wrona collapsed on Christmas Eve and was taken to Scarborough Hospital where he died early on Christmas Day.

Bradford: Police launched a murder inquiry after the discovery of a man's body in a flat in Bradford, early yesterday.

Bristol: Police were last night hunting the hit-and-run driver who killed special Policewoman Nancy Lloyd, aged 21, who was knocked down by a motor-cycle near her home in Stockwood, Bristol, on Christmas Eve.

As she lay injured in the road, two cars swerved around her but a third, a dark-coloured Ford Cortina Mark IV, drove over her and failed to stop.

● A man stabbed his wife to death and then hanged himself as two of couple's teenage children wrapped family Christmas presents unaware of their parents' deaths. The bodies were found when a third child arrived home on Christmas Eve after buying gifts for the family.

The police said yesterday: "We are treating this as murder but no other person is being sought.

The couple who died were Mrs Joan Gardner, aged 39, who was stabbed in a bedroom of the house at Cwmsaerbren, Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan, and Mr Peter Gardner, aged 41, unemployed who was found hanged from a rafter.

A policeman sad that post-mortem examinations had been carrie out and the coroner had been informed.

Victoria's crowning glory

A £40m "jewel in the crown of Queen Victoria" will be unveiled in March when The Queen will open the magnificently restored Queen Victoria building in Sydney.

Built as a market late last century in the heart of Sydney, the towering Waverly sandstone building has been transformed into a memorial to Victorian England.

Threatened with demolition in the 1970s, conservationists and the city council stepped in. For the past two years British craftsmen have created a dazzling showcase of memorabilia for the new galleries, foyers and arcades.

"We believe it will stand as one of the greatest monuments to the Victorian age this century and become a world tourist attraction," Mr Neil Galsser, promotions director said.

Mr Glasser, a retired Sydney businessman and admirer of Queen Victoria, said that the scheme had attracted criticism from Australians with republican sympathies."

Mr Glasser was in Britain to find two authentic statures of Qeeen Victoria and Prince Albert to place outside the building. He flew to India after officials told him there was a statue of Queen Victoria in New Delhi.

He also expected a "royal clock", made by the old-established London firm of Thwaites and Reed. It will hang in the upper gallery.

Standing 17-ft high and weighing more than a tonne, the clock features a moving tableaux og England's royal history, with intricate figures carved by Mr Dennis Morton.

The scenesinclude King Canute, the Battle of Hastings, King John and the Magna Carta, the execution of King Charles I, King Henury VIII surrounded by his wives, and Queen Elizabeth I knighting Sir Francis Drake.

Mr Morton said that his commission turned into a labour of love involving more than 10,000 hours of work at his studios in Bottesford, near Grantham, Lincolnshire. He and his assistant researched every detail and have even reproduced a small-scale version of the stern of the Golden Hind. The figures were first carved in wax, moulded and then cast in polyster resin.

Mr Morton, who works for the British Museum reproducing bronze and marble figures, said it was the most exciting commission in 17 years.

The clock will play the Westminster Chimes and music recorded by a Sydney orchestra of original music written for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert.

After 12 months negotiation with the Irish authorities, Mr Glasser secured a 30 lb section of stone from Castle Blarney to be placed at the front of a wishing well, outside the building.

Coins tossed in will be donated to the Royal Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children's charity in Australia.

Anyone who wants to sell or donate Victorian memorabilia should contact: PO Box A24b, Sydney South, 2000, Australia.



Mr Dennis Morton with his Battle of Hastings sculpture, part of the 17ft "royal clock" for Sydney's Queen Victoria Building (Photograph: Dod Miller)

Historic theatre is damaged by fire

The 120-year-old New Tyne Theatre in Newcastle upon Tyne, badly damaged in a fire, on Christmas Day, will be reopened by late next year.

The fire is a blow to theatre in the North-east. Touring companies were due to stage productions from next March, with Newcastle's Theatre Royal about to close up for two years for £5.5 million of improvements.

Mr Jack Dixon, its chairman, said: "This was to have been the year of the New Tyne Theatre." The cause of the blaze at the grade one listed building and a former cinema was unknown, he added.

● Seventeen buses were damaged on Wednesday in a fire at Southall Bus Depot, west London, which police believe was started deliberately.

● More than £25,000 of damage was caused by a fire in the garage of a house owned by Judge Blomefield in Frilsham, near Newbury, Berkshire, on Christmas Day. Police believe an arsonist was responsible.

Judge Blomefield, aged 68, has been a circuit judge, recently based at Reading Crown Court, since 1969 and is a former Berkshire County Court judge.

"My garage was set on fire and so was my car parked in the drive. When two separate things catch fire in the way these did somebody must have been responsible," said the judge.

"The garage does not adjoin the house but it is very near and if it had spread anything could have happened.

● A girl aged two who died in a Christmas Day blaze at her home was named as Leanne Gallacher yesterday.

Her sister Lisa, aged six months, and three teenage girls were treated for shock and the effects of smoke. Stratchclyde police said the fire was not being treated as suspicious.

Euro poll doubts by Labour

Labour Party frontbenchers have started informal discussions about the possibility of cutting the European Parliament down to size by repealing direct elections (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr George Foulkes, a shadow spokesman on foreign affairs, said yesterday: "The party is still in the process of formulating its policy on Europe, to be included in the next election manifesto.

"But because of the frequent clashes between the European Parliament and other Community institutions, MPs have started to ask what role the European Parliament actually fulfils.

"Many of the Euro MPs seem to have time on their hands, with little real function to perform.

"A number of Labour MPs have asked if the cause of Europe might not actually be advanced by returning to the previous system, where it was possible to nominate experts to serve in the European Parliament."

Mr Foulkes, who is working with a frontbench colleague, Mr George Robertson, in preliminary discussions with party headquarters staff, said that they were considering whether it was practical or realistic to go back on international agreements and repeal direct elections legislation, which first took effect in 1979.

Key voters on Labour mailing list

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Key voters in up to 130 marginal constituencies are to be targeted by the Labour Party for a new year experiment in direct mail publicity and propaganda "shots."

Mr Steven Billcliffe, the party's fund-raiser, has been appointed publishing and marketing manager, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Billcliffe's talent for raising money through direct mailings to potential and known supporters is to be turned to political marketing.

In the run-up to the next general election Mr Billcliffe will use direct mail techniques on targeted groups of voters.

His appointment will disturb party traditionalists, who argue that Labour should not be treated like a soap powder.

But it will be Mr Billcliffe's job to build up mailing lists for significant numbers of "floating" voters in marginal constituencies and to communicate directly in an attempt to sell Labour's policies and image.

Direct mailing will enable the party to by-pass the media, although Labour will start without the computerized advantage built up by the Tories and Alliance, who have used the technique for some years.

Post deal passes deadline

The deadline for a union deal to produce News International's new *London Post* at Wapping, east London, from next March, expired on Christmas Eve with no sign of agreement (Our Labour Reporter writes).

Only the electricians, out of five print unions, have indicated an interest in signing a legally-binding no-strike deal with the company, but they have been warned against going it alone by Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC.

Meanwhile Mr Harry Conroy, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said last night that any request for support from production unions taking industrial action at the company's four existing Fleet Street titles would receive a sympathetic hearing. But no such request had yet been received.

Both the National Graphical Association and Sogat have added a "jobs for life" demand to a pay and conditions claim at *The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun* and *News of the World*. The original claim was registered in October, but the clause calling for a jobs guarantee was included this week.

In expectation that the demand will be rejected by the company, the NGA and Sogat are planning strike ballots in mid-January.

Britain 'on the brink of industrial sex change'

Britain is on the brink of a major industrial sex change, the new leader of one of Britain's biggest unions forecast today. Jobs traditionally done by women look like expanding and male-dominated work looks like diminishing, Mr John Edmonds, new leader of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers Union said.

He succeeds Mr David Basnett as general secretary on new year's day. Mr Edmonds said: "Many jobs in the growth areas are going to be occupied by women.

"It looks as if these are going to expand and those jobs undertaken mainly by men are going to diminish. "So there is going to be a shift in the working population

Mr Edmonds, aged 41, who has a wife and two daughters, has been responsible for public service workers for nearly three years.

House into home

A Victorian house of correction, built at Folkingham, Lincolnshire, in 1825, is being converted for use as a self-catering holiday home for American tourists.

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 80; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 70 cents; Denmark Dkr 9.00; Finland Mkk 9.00; France Frs 8.00; Germany DM 3.50; Gibraltar 60p; Greece Dr 180; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2500; Luxembourg Lf 65; Madeira Esc 170; Malta 55c; Morocco Dir 10.00; Norway Kr 9.00; Pakistan Rps 15; Portugal Esc 170; Singapore $3.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 9.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Dis 80.00; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 350

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING MORE SCANDALOUS THAN D.H.LAWRENCE'S NOVELS. HIS LIFE.



COMING THROUGH

Was D H Lawrence's affair with Frieda Weekley a great love story, or just a great scandal?
Helen Mirren stars as Frieda Weekley, Kenneth Branagh as Lawrence, in Alan Plater's "Coming Through."

CENTRAL

TONIGHT AT 9.00PM ON ITV

'Pragmatic' consultative document

TUC learns to live with employment laws

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The Tuc has called for a "broad social consensus" on future employment legislation in a highly pragmatic consultative document sent to its 91 affiliates, it attacks the Government for the introduction of "unjust" and "hostile" Labour law but avoids clarion calls for wholesale repeal by a future Labour government.

An obvious responce to a perceived change in mood among trade unionists engendered by the statutes and by economic circumstances, the document is being circulated ahead of a TUC advisory conference on industrial relations legislation scheduled for March 19. It also seems to set the seal on the meeting of senior trade union officials in early February to review policy on accepting state aid for ballots.

Both the engineering and electricians' unions appear to have defied successfully the present embargo on accepting such financial aid. The document will serve to reinforce their stand by offering "freepost" or a TUC body to administer any available government money.

More inparticular, the paper concedes that the Trade Union Act 1984, which enforces strike ballots, secret votes for union executives and ballots on the political levy, has had a "signifijcant impact".

It seeks to modify the strike vote provision however, by proposing that future legislation on the subject should not allow employers to take legal action against unions where disruption is not backed by a vote. Instead it proposes that a statutory code of conduct should be introduced enabling union members to complain to an unspecified body which would have the power to adjudicate.

On the issue of a positive "Bill of rights" for trade unionists which has been backed by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, the document is cautious. It suggests that it may be wrong to pose the argument sharply in terms of "rights" or the traditional "immunities" which have protected trade union from civil action. Perhaps the movement's lawyers should concentrate on finding clear definitions of the boundaries between the concepts which would stand up in a court of law, the paper says.

The document concedes that while union leaderships have not for the most part encouraged closed shop ballots under the Employment Acts of 1980 and 1982, such ballots taken place at local level were both parties have been anxious that the membership agreements should countiue. Generally employers have adopted a "wait and see" approach, the memorandum says.

The present TUC consultation exercise was set in train by Congress in September with a call for a review of legislation which should be carried out by the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committe in time for next year's Congress.

Resolutions also specified the need to examine the scope for self-policing arrangments, a Bill of rights for working people incinding new protections on unfair dismissal, statutory support for union recognition, representation rights, additional provision for trade union facilities at the workplace and an extended role for the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

A step-by-step approach to any future law is counselled by the paper in line with the tactics of the present government. Unions are warned not to minimize options too soon before the next general election.

The law is now inextricably linked with industrial relations the document concedes: but it calls for a moe liberal framework in which there is scope for both legislation and voluntary initiatives.

The Acts of 1980 and 1982 have not been used by employers to any significat extent, except in isolated and well-publicized cases such as the miners' strike and the dispute between the National Graphical Association and Mr Eddie Shah.

There have been a "considerable number of cases" where pre-strike ballots under the 1984 Trade Union Act have been organized the paper says. Some offiliates have changed their rules to accommodate the legislation and many members have come to expect a "direct vote" before industrial action as a right.

On the subject of secret ballots for union executives the paper is less opinionated. Unions, particularly those with members in a diversity of occupational groups and industries, should "ensure a fair and representative outcome".

Flushed with the considerable success of unions' political levy ballots most members of Labour Party-affiliated unions have now been balloted and all unions have registered "yes" votes. The paper favours retention of that part of the Act of 1984.

House prices 'rise by 10% with boom in the South'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices in the past year increased by more than 10 per cent for the first time in five years, the Anglia Building Society said.

The figures, compared with the 8 per cent to 9 per cent average rise forecast by other organizations, show an average increase of 10.2 per cent since 1984, the highest annual rise recorded by the society since 1980.

"With demand steadily increasing and mortgage lending reaching record levels, I think we can expect an even larger increase in house prices next year. Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, Anglia's chief general manager, said.

Anglia's *Housing Market 1985*, published today, suggests that boom conditions prevailed in parts of the south of England, with price rises of up to 22 per cent, while in the North, Scotland and Ireland, prices remain depressed. On average, rises in the South were nearly two and a half times those in the North.

The biggest new housing development has been sheltered housing for the elderly, with an almost insatiable demand in most large towns. Anglia believes this market will increase further.

Mr Stoughton-Harris said that this trend could mean a better deal for homebuyers. "Our research clearly shows that many elderly people are keen to give up their large family houses in favour of smaller, serviced homes where some of their everyday needs are taken care of and they can benefit from the companionship of shared facilities and the security of wardened supervision, while maintaining their independence in a home of their own."

Increasing numbers of much-needed family homes would be released. "This will inevitably have a knock-on effect down the housing ladder, with more property becoming available for all classes of buyer. In the longer term, the result could be a more efficient use of the housing stock."

Mr Peter Moreton, Anglia's chief surveyor, said that within general inflation set to fall and the likelihood of tax benefits in a pre-election period, the housing market was set for another buoyant year.

Mr Moreton warned house buyers about the advisability of independent surveys. He said that Anglia's valuers analysed common defects. "Most of these defects if neglected could lead to a rapid decrease in a property's market value and purchasers ignore them at their peril."

Only 10 per cent of buyers had an independent survey, he said. "We can only stress the wisdom of seeking advice before entering into any contract to purchase. The average price of a house now exceeds £30,000. A survey costing £100 to £200 must surely be a wise investment."

Average % house price rise during 1985 in England

	New propty	Post 1919	Pre 1919
North-west	2.5	3.35	*
W Mid	6.75	7.75	6.8
South-west	6.87	9.62	2.44
NE and Yorks	10.0	10.0	9.0
NE Mid	7.32	4.95	9.05
E Mid	8.6	11.77	10.8
E Anglia	12.27	16.74	12.43
S Mid	15.0	12.0	10.0
London and SE	12.08	11.17	15.67
South	12.83	14.1	10.76

*Insufficient sample



The Enfield Hunt at Brockett Park, Hertfordshire, yesterday, before heavy rains forced cancellation of the meeting (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

RSPCA to toughen stand on fox hunting

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals yesterday launched a campaign against fox hunting, timed to coincide with the traditional Boxing Day meets.

The society has issued a leafet and a booklet explaining the RSPCA's reasons for opposing the sport.

"The society has been unquivocally opposed to fox hunting since 1971, but this is the first time we have expressed our views so firmly" a spokeswoman said. The Society wanted to correct misunderstandings about its views on the subject, she added.

From 1958 to 1971 the society had opposed all hunting except fox hunting. "In 1971 it was finally recognized that opposition to fox hunting as well as all other sports of hunting was the only logical stance for a society which attempted to prevent cruelty to animals.

The RSPCA was not entering the arena of direct action, violent demonstration or unlawful campaigning. It had been instrumental in animal welfare legislation for the past century, and hoped to achieve the eventual abolition of fox hunting by the same method.

A spokesman for the Masters of Fox Hounds Association said the key to wild animal welfare was "the preservation of habitat in the countryside".

He said the RSPCA's campaign would not succeed in getting hunting banned. If it did, however, it would simply replace an organized cull of the fox population, which was open to inspection, with the brutal anarchy that no one could monitor or control.

"Britain has the largest, healthiest fox population of any country in Europe and it has more organized fox hunting than any other country in the world", he said.

"Hunting with hounds offers the swiftest and most humane method of controlling the fox

Baby food tests continue

By Gregory Neale

Tests were continuing yesterday to trace the source of salmonella food infection linked with powdered baby milk products.

On Tuesday, it as announced that a baby had died in Manchester showing traces of salmonella, although pneumonia in now believed to have been the cause of death. Laboratory tests are continuing to try to identify the exact strain of bacteria.

Food scientists at the Farley factory in Kendal, Cumbria, spend Christmas checking for any infection.

Farley's asked people last week to destroy any Oster Feed, Oster Milk, Complete Forumula, Oster Milk Two and the milk-based nutritional supplement Complan, after a statistical link was suggested between the baby foods and 41 cases of salmonella, 29 involving babies.

No further cases of the infection among babies have been reported since.

In the case of the baby which died at Booth Hall hospital, north Manchester, last week, samples have been sent to the public health laboratory in Colindale, north London.

The hospital said yesterday that preliminary medical opinion after post mortem examination was that the premature baby died from pneumonia.

Manchester's medical officer for environmental health, Dr Michael Painter, said: "Preliminary laboratory tests have raised the possibility that the salmonella isolated may be of the same type as that thought to be associated with the consumption of some milk-based baby foods, but at this stage we cannot be certain of that, either."

At Farley's factory in Kendal, samples from machinery were being examined by the company's microbiologists. Samples from the 320 workers were also being tested at the public health laboratory in Preston, where staff also worked through the Christmas holiday.

All tests have proved negative.

Mr Mike Tait, factory manager, said that all staff returning today and on Monday would be searching for any possible source of infection.

Farley's headquarters in Plymouth said that some people had returned packet tops from Oster Milk products, and money would be refunded.

Farley's emphasized that no risk had been attached to their cereal products, including Farley's Rusks.

3,000 'watchdogs' to monitor Telecom

By Bill Johnstone, Technolgy Correspondent

A national network of about 3,000 telephone "watchdogs" is to be set up by the Office of Telecommunications (Oftel) next spring to monitor the quality of the services provided by British Telecom.

The network is one of a number of ideas contained in a paper to be published early next month by Oftel, which has become increasingly concerned that it should be able to monitor Telecom's customer services independently.

Complaints to Oftel are running at 1,000 a month, and half concern disputed telephone bills. Oftel, which took over from the Post Office Users National Council (Pounc) as the telephone consumer watchdog, wants to set up reliable and frequent checks embracing all areas of Telecom's network, including public payphones, maintenance, operator service, customer accounts, and the frequency of wrong numbers.

The checks will, for the first time, enable Oftel to prepare its own independent statistics. To date, the consumer group and Pounc have had to rely on information published by Telecom which, since privatization, no longer publishes such data. Oftel will also conduct regular opinion surveys to gauge subscriber attitude to Telecom services. The Oftel team will be attached to the post and telecommunications advisory committees.

Revolution in house-buying: 1

Solicitors keep monopoly grip

The severe restrictions imposed on the powers of building societies and banks to offer a conveyancing service to house buyers, contained in the Government's recently published Building Societies Bill, is the latest indication that the promised revolution in house-buying has a long way to go to replace the present system with open competition.

To free conveyancing from its solicitors' monopoly was the intention of Austin Mitchell's private member's Bill, which the Government then embraced in its own proposed legislation, last year. It is clear, however, that powerful lobbying by lawyers found a sympathetic ally in Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor; the Bill, published earlier this month, prevents building societies and banks from offering a conveyancing service to customers to whom they are also giving a loan.

That effectively ends the matter for the time being, for such institutions see little point in offering conveyancing to customers getting loans from someone else. Mr Roy Cox, chairman of the Building Societies Association, expressed disappointment at the decision "because we were hoping to be allowed to offer conveyancing for our own borrowers as part of a one-stop house-buying package".

The Consumers' Association, which was closely involved with Mr Mitchell's original Bill, said the Government had reneged on its promises. It took comfort, however, from the fact that the restriction was not enshrined in the Government's Bill, but included in rules laid down by the Lord Chancellor, having hopes that the rules could be changed after Lord Hailsham steps down.

Government reasoning that the restriction was necessary to prevent a conflict of interest, reflected an argument put forward by the Law Society, which was not surprisingly delighted with the decision.

Although the legislation allowing the establishment of licensed conveyancers has received the Royal Assent, the proposed council for licensed conveyancers, which will have overall responsibility for all aspects of the regulation of licensed conveyancers, has not yet been appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

In its absence, the new conveyancing standing committee, which has the task of producing reforms to conveyancing practice within two years, has begun work without a non-solicitor among its members.

In spite of the obstacles in the way of reform of the conveyancing process, there is evidence that the threat of competition, if not yet its reality, has had an effect on solicitors. They have begun to respond to public demand for a better, and if possible a cheaper service.

A spokeswoman for the Law Society is convinced that increased competition has already led to reduced charges by solicitors. "Solicitors are pleased to compete on fair terms with others. They will compete on price, standards, back-up and they provide a service which is underwritten by a strict code of ethics. Solicitors provide the public with a 'de luxe' service", she said defiantly.

A new solicitors' network, The Homebuyers Group, is to be launched next month. A heavy advertising and marketing campaign will encourage people to make more use of their solicitors.

Tomorrow: estate agents

It is two years since Mr Austin Mitchell, MP, introduced a Bill designed to end the solicitors' monopoly of conveyancing and open up house transaction to competition. In a two-part series, CHRISTOPHER WARMAN concludes how the proposed reforms have fared and looks at changes in the world of property.

Stores braced for price war on video tapes

A price war on pre-recorded video tapes is expected in the wake of Christmas sales of video tape recorders. Half the families in Britain now rent or own a recorder (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

"The demand for video entertainment in 1986 and beyond should exceed even our most optimistic forecasts if video distributions are willing to adapt to market change", Mr Vic Watkins, managing director of Rank Video Services, said.

Rank has built a £2.5 million duplicating plant in west London that it claims is one of the most technically advanced in Europe.

Last autumn Woolworth launched its own range of pre-recorded tapes retailing almost as cheaply as blank ones, at about £7, and including such classics as *The Bells of St Mary's*, *High Noon* and *The Three Musketeers*.

A Gallup/Woolworth survey last summer concluded that children were the main users of the video in almost three out of ten homes owning one, with parents making most use of it in nearly a quarter.

"Men appear to b about twice as likely as their wives to be the main user of the family video", the survey found.

Families with videos (%)

	Scotland	North	Wales	Midlands	South
Family video player	56	43	48	46	49
Separate TV for children	51	52	41	40	38
Children with separate record cassette players	65	60	55	61	56

Source: Gallup/Woolworth Family Leisure Survey (End of summer 1985 figures)

'Promising' new drug for Aids

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

A small number of British patients suffering from the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Aids, are likely to be treated with a "promising" new drug early next year.

The compound has been developed in the United States by the British-owned pharmaceutical company, Burroughs-Wellcome, and the first phase of clinical trials, involving a few patients, has begun in the United States.

Permission for similar tests is now about to be sought from the Department of Health by the Wellcome Foundation in London.

Laboratory tests have shown that the compound, known in Britain as BW A509U, and in America as AZT, stops the Aids virus from multiplying. But it has not yet been shown whether the compound has the same effect on patients infected with the virus.

The compound would be given to British patients to establish what sort of dose could be tolerated. A further trail would then be necessary to see how effective it was against the Aids virus.

It could be several years before all the necessary tests are completed to show that the compound is not only effective, but has no side effects.

The first British patients could be given the drug in February, if the Department of Health gives the necessary approval.

Air fare offer accepted

More than 100,000 people have applied for fare reductions offered on transatlantic flights by British Airways, Pan Am and TWA.

The reduced-price ticket offer, ranging between £30 and £35, was made to avoid possibly expensive litigation in the United States by passengers claiming that the three airlines had forced Laker Airways out of business.

Fare reductions totalling £30 million have been offered as an out-of-court settlement of airline passengers who can prove that they flew with the airline between March 1, 1982 and March 31, 1984.

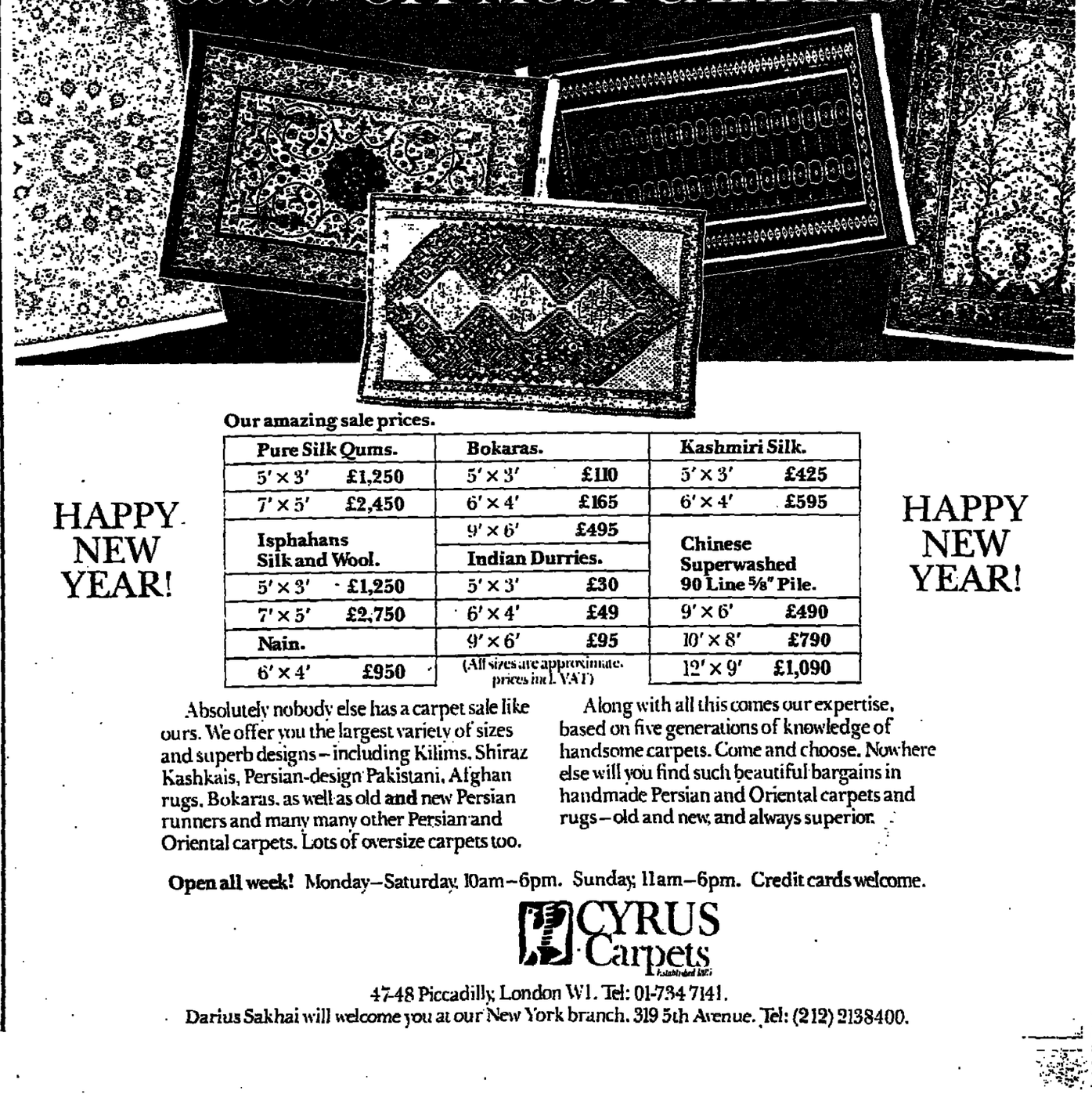
The offer, to be ratified by the US courts in March, comes after an anti-trust action brought on behalf of the passengers by US lawyers, although British Airways denied the accusation that it had tried to drive Laker out of business.

The latest offer comes after Laker Airways' acceptance last August of $US8 million from British Airways to enable it to proceed with privatization plans, in exchange for a promise by Sir Freddie Laker not to sue for alleged conspiracy.

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		Indian Durries.			
5′×3′	£1,250	5′×3′	£30		
7′×5′	£2,750	6′×4′	£49	9′×6′	£490
Nain.		9′×6′	£95	10′×8′	£790
6′×4′	£950	(All sizes are approximate. prices incl. VAT)		12′×9′	£1,090

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Ministers' pay lags behind top officials despite rise

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet will continue to be paid less than most senior Civil Service advisers, in spite of a £2,020 increase on Wednesday.

Pay differentials, ranging at present from 13 per cent to 47 per cent extra for officials, will move down slightly.

But Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet and head of the home Civil Service will receive £18,125 more (40 per cent) than Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who will draw the Commons Cabinet salary of £45,000.

Under proposals announced by the Government in 1983, Mrs Thatcher is entitled to £56,120 from next week. However, it is assumed in Whitehall that she will continue to forego some of the increase to set an example.

That example was spectacularly ignored by the Prime Minister last summer, when she sanctioned staged pay increases of up to 46 per cent for senior Civil Servants, the judiciary and *senior officers in the Armed* Forces.

The top people's pay package put more than 200 officials, officers and judges so far ahead of their political masters and legislators that it is highly unlikely they will ever catch up.

The Whitehall salary drawn by Sir Robert, £63,125, rises to £75,000 in March, at which point he will be getting two-thirds as much again as Mrs Thatcher. Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse draws the same salary as Sir Robert in his capacity as Chief of the Defence Staff.

Sir Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is the next highest paid man in Whitehall, £60,625 rising to £70,000 in March – increasing his differential from 35 per cent to 55 per cent more than the £45,000 paid to Mr Nigel Lawson, from next week.

There are another 22 permanent secretaries and 15 second permanent secretaries way ahead of their political leaders.

Permanent secretaries are paid £52,750; £60,000 from March; second permanent secretaries go from £48,500 to £55,000.

There are also 20 admirals, generals and air chief marshals drawing the same salary as *permanent secretaries, which* means that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, on £45,000 from the new yaer, deals with a department which has about two dozen officials who are better paid.

	Now	Jan 1
Prime Minister (notional)*	£53,600	£56,120
Lord Chancellor (notional)	£71,500	£71,500
The Speaker	£44,560	£46,650
Cabinet Minister (Commons)*	£42,980	£45,000
Cabinet Minister (Lords)	£33,260	£34,820
Minister of State (Lords)	£28,000	£29,320
Minister of State (Commons)*	£33,500	£35,170
Chief Whip*	£37,590	£39,360
Dep Chief Whip*	£33,590	£39,380
Leader of Opposition*	£40,310	£42,200
*Opposition Chief Whip**	£33,590	£35,170
MP	£16,904	£17,702

*(Commons ministers' reduced parliamentary salary of £12,782 included)

	Now	March 1
Head of Home Civil Service	£63,125	£75,000
Chief of Defence Staff	£63,125	£75,000
Permanent Secretary to Treasury	£60,625	£70,000
Permanent Secretary	£52,750	£60,000
Second Permanent Secretary	£48,500	£55,000
Admiral/general/air chief marshal	£52,750	£60,000
Lord Chief Justice	£69,500	£75,000
Master of the Rolls/Lord of Appeal/ Lord President Court of Session (Scotld)	£63,750	£69,000
Vice Chancellor/Lord Justice of Appeal/ Lord Justice of Appeal (N Ireland)/ Lord Justice Clerk (Scotland)	£60,750	£66,000

Labour attacks Thatcher broadcast to Falklands

The Prime Minister was accused by a Labour spokesman of "flipping her lid" on the Falklands over the Christmas holiday (Our Political Correspondent writes).

The further bout of political abuse was provoked by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Christmas Day broadcast to the Falkland Islands, in which she repeated her condemnation of allies who had supported last month's United National General Assembly resolution calling for talks between Argentina and Britain.

Mrs Thatcher said in her message: "We are committed to protecting your right to determine your won future. It is one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and I regret that at the recent general assembly so many of our friends proved unwilling to face up to the real issues at stake.

Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the Prime Minister should apologize for her insulting remarks. "She seems finally to have flipped her lid," he said.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linligow, said: "Instead of using, or abusing, Christmas for a controversial political message the Prime Minister should ask herself why friendly governments of the United States, France and Italy voted against us." The UN resolution was carried by 107 votes to four.

The Queen finds good news among the gloom

The Queen concentrated on the "good news" in her Christmas message on Wednesday.

The television broadcast showed her sitting at her desk in Buckingham Palace with several newspapers in front of her. She said: "Looking at the morning newspapers, listening to the radio and watching television, it's only too easy to conclude that nothing is going right in the world".

The Queen said that throughout the year there seemed to have been nothing but bad news, with a constant stream of reports of aircraft crashes, earthquakes, volcanoes and famine. As if natural disasters were not enough, there were also riots, wars, acts of terrorism and, generally, news of man's inhumanity to man.

"It used to be said that, 'No news is good news', but today you might well think that, 'Good news is no news'."

But there was a lot of good news and some wonderful things were going on inspite of the frightening headlines.

The Queen said that among those receiving awards might be an outstanding doctor who had worked for years in a deprived area. Or there might be a voluntary worker who had given nearly 40 years to campaigning for the disabled, a nurse whose care for her patients for more than 30 years was a splendid *example of the* work done by members of a dedicated profession, or a WRVS volunteer who had devoted a large part of her life to others.

Then *there were those who* had shown courage and devotion to duty, such as two firemen who had been called to a blazing ship. They knew there were casualties below *decks and, although* both injured themselves, risked flames and smoke and further explosions to bring the casualties to safety.

But these were not exceptional cases. "Every investiture brings stories of bravery and self sacrifice, like the members of bomb disposal teams whose cool courage saves so many lives."

The Queen said she saw more such people in Britain, but as she often held investitures in other Commonwealth countries she knew there were people making the same sort of good news all over the world.

But while bravery and service to the community were recognized by honours and awards, there were many ways in which people could make good news.

People who had helped their companies to success had also come to the Palace as winners of the Queen's awards for export and technology. They *included a darts-making firm* with only five employees which exported to 40 countries.

"They were so enterprising that they introduced the game of darts into places where it had never been played," the Queen said. There were many more examples. These success stories, so often pushed into the background, were the guarantee of the future.

"Christmas is a time of good news. I believe it is a time to *look as the good things of life* and to remember that there are a great many people trying to make the world a better place.

"There's a lesson in this for us all and we should never forget our *obligation to* make our own individual contributions, however small, towards the sum of human goodness," she said.

The Pope's message, page 14



The Dean of Windsor with Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones at the Christmas Day service attended by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family at Windsor Chapel (Photograph : Julian Herbert).



The Queen wearing a fur hat at the Christmas Day service

Swift victory eludes Duarte despite massive aid by US

From John Carlin
San Salvador

The Salvadorean armed forces have grown more than four times in size and become immeasurably more professional since civil war broke *out six years ago, but the left* wing guerrillas, whose military capacity has increased less dramatically, remain far from beaten.

Two years ago the guerrillas of the *Farabundo Marti* National Liberation Front (FMLN) were rampant. The Government's backers in Washington feared the collapse of a badly demoralized army.

But a Duarte electoral victory in May 1984 assured vast increases in American military aid, rapidly reversing the trend of the war. Earlier this year the 50,000-strong army and its ever-present team of American advisers appeared to believe the destruction of the FMLN was imminent.

Today neither side is talking of outright victory. "Prolonged War", the Guerrillas' revolutionary recipe, is a fate even President Duarte – the eternal optimist – now appears resigned to, judging from recent pronouncements.

The army too. "Fightin has now become a daily routine," says the official army spokesman, Colonel Carlos Aviles.

But "fighting", as the Colonel has said, is today aimed more at containing than defeating the FMLN.

The guerrilla combatants – well-armed and numbering about 6,000 – remain as resilient and iron-willed as ever.

Government forces – more mobile than ever – have had two major gains in the past year. They have managed repeatedly to penetrate the guerrillas' rearguard mountain territory (misleadingly referred to as "controlled zones") and to force a substantial reduction in the FMLN's camp-following civilian supporters or "Masas".

A key reason for this has been the air force. The speed of movement provided by an American-supplied fleet of 60 helicopters – triple the number 18 months ago – has enabled troops to corral and capture "fleeing" Masas. Many thousands more have been terrorized by relentless aerial bombardments into abandoning the mountains for refugee camps – filled to overflowing – in the cities.

The guerrillas' political strength at present seems much reduced but they say they aim to recapture the initiative by "destabilizing" the Duarte Government and continuing with a strategy of economic sabotage against which the army has so far provided few answers.

"Destabilizing", a guerrilla document has said, is achieved by "irregular" operations such as kidnappings – the capture of the President's daughter in September was one notable success.

Sabotage takes the form of transport stoppages (the last one paralysed 90 per cent of the country's roads), the destruction of electricity stations – black-outs are a nightly occurrence all over the country – and the burning of key export crops.

On Saturday, for example, guerrillas set fire to $2 million worth of export-bound coffee – *economic damage of a type* which eventually rebounds badly, in political terms, on President Duarte.

Guerrilla losses are still far lower than the army's. Since the Americans beefed up the air force, the guerrillas have tended to operate in nimble, elusive units five or six strong. Army patrolling has consequently increased but the guerrillas have *countered that with a very* effective mining campaign. Military observers have estimated that mines are now accounting for 70 per cent of troop casualties.

But, as the economic crisis deepens, the number of young Salvadorean men willing to opt for the economically secure option of joining the army increases. That, and the United States' continued resolve to finance the war, has convinced many that the pattern of attrition introduced this year, is set to stay.

Christmas truce

El Savador's Government accepted a call by the Roman Catholic Church for a 10-day Christmas truce which left-wing rebels pledged to observe (Reuter reports from San Salvador).

The Communications and Culture Ministry said the truce started on Christmas Eve and would continue until midnight of January 2.

Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, appealing for the truce, said the Salvadorean people had the right to tranquillity after six years of civil war in which about 60,000 people had died..

Why pupils are weak on logic in Japan

From David Watts
Tokyo

Japanese high school students are good at solving problems through set formulas, but poor at anything which requires original thought. A survey of about 48,000 students showed that, though overall academic ability has improved since the last similar survey in 1966, the students are weak in logic.

The assessment underlines the need for the kind of educational reform being contemplated by the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, if Japan is to produce future generations capable of sufficient innovation for the country to keep its place in the increasingly competitive high-technology race with Europe and the United State.

The 1 per cent of the school population surveyed produced an average pf 66 out of 100 in Japanese, 65 on social studies and 71 in mathematics. The students were good at multiple-choice questions on Japanese *and at reading Kanji characters.* A knowledge of about 1,200 Kanji is necessary to read the morning newspaper.

But at composition of sentences the students were *extremely weak in both Japanese* and English. In one question which required the students to complete a sentence logically in Japanese, only 33 per cent gave a statisfactory answer.

This statistic is reflective both of the culture the present education system. The need to master so many Kanji before an individual becomes literate force on the student the need for repetitive memorization.

"This trait is carried over into other aspects of education. The survey showed that students were not capable of logical or coherent thinking, now were they able to answer questions in social studies which spanned two or more areas.

The survey thus bears out the oft-repeated criticism that Japan's education system *teaches the techniques of* passing examinations but does not educate in the full sense of the word.

Mr Nakasone has had a task force at work for more than a *year looking at ways the* education system might be improved.

Activists freed in Lahore

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad

The authorities in Punjab have released most of the 200 opposition activists who were involved in clashes with the police in Lahore on Wednesday. But the opposition leaders arrested in connection with a planned public meeting in defiance of martial law were still in detention yesterday.

Most of the opposition leaders were picked up by police from their homes during the week to prevent the opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, from holding a public meeting in the Punjab captital. The meeting was ostensibly called to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

In Wednesday's clashes police used tear gas to disperse the activists marching to the meeting. The demostrators, trying to avoid the police road blocks, retaliated with bricks and stones. Several policemen and demonstrators were injured in the clashes.

There are stringent security measures in force as the country is approaching the January deadline for the promised lifting of martial law after eight and a half years.

Threat to limb maker ended by minister

A Department of Health and Social Security threat to nationalize Britain's largest supplier of artificial limbs has been countermanded by Mr Tony Newton, Minister for the Disabled.

The threat to sequestrate J. E. Hanger's assets was made on December 18 after the company *refused to accept a new contract* proposed by the DHSS.

Dr James Hiddleston, managing director, said that the contract would halve the profit margin on limbs to 3.4 per cent and impose new authorizing procedures on the prescription of non-standard artificial limbs.

"If they have had a change of heart it was late on Christmas Eve and we have not heard about it. We would be happy to negotiate", Dr Hiddleston said yesterday.

Dr Hiddleston said the DHSS proposals applied to all six British companies supplying artificial limbs, but he believed *Hanger had been singled out for* cost cutting because it was the largest, with about half of the market.

The service providing artificial limbs and wheelchairs costs the DHSS about £33 million a year.

"Not only are the department's proposals commercially unrealistic, we have not had a price rise for 18 months, but the imposition of more bureaucratic control would increase delays for patients", Dr Hiddleston said.

"We see 400 patients a day and 30 per cent of the limbs we supply are non-standard. The DHSS is imposing more and more rules and they have less and less people to work them.

"It is amazing that it can suggest it can run our business more efficiently than we can. Hanger is part of BTR, which is one of the most successful industrial companies in the world."

Dr Hiddleston said the DHSS had not commented on proposals by Hanger for it to take over the administration of the service and transportation of patients to treatment centres, which could save the Government £4.5 million a year.

He said that Hanger could take over the administration by computerization and adding about 100 people to its workforce of 850 replacing about 1,000 Civil Servants.

He added that Hanger's plan for transport of patients would free valuable ambulance services and give patients' more time at treatment centres.

Both plans were put to an inquiry being conducted by Professor Ian McColl. His report is due to be published in the new year.

Retrial in child killing case

The man accused of the murder of Leonie Darnley aged 7, is to face a retrail next February after a jury failed to reach a verdict in a late sitting at the Central Criminal Court on Christmas Eve.

Patrick Reilly, aged 24, a labourer, of Anson Road, Holloway, north London, denies murdering the child, who went missing from a play area outside the tower block where she lived in Battersea Park estate, London, in July 1984.

Neighbours found her naked body in a basement shed beneath the flats. Her throat had been cut and she had other knife wounds.

At the end of a two-week trial and a retirement of nearly six hours, the jury said they were "hopelessly deadlocked" and could not reach a verdict.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Reilly, who was arrested three months after the murder, was linked to the crime by human hairs and fibres from a jacked at the scene.

The defendent did not give evidence but his counsel argued that the scientific evidence was inconclusive and at least seven other men were suspects.

Cathedral reopens in Peking

From Mary Lee
Peking

The reopening of Peking's biggest cathedral, Beitang, turned out to be a moving event for Catholics and a big propaganda exercise for the Chinese Communist party. Older men and women, with tears in their eyes, sang Latin hymns along with the choir as Bishop Michael Fu reconsecrated the building on a bitterly cold Christmas Eve morning. Many returned in the evening for midnight Mass and to receive Holy Communion.

Reporters from the official Chinese press and television cameras saw the reopening as proof of the party's policy of religious freedom. Among those seated in the pews was party member Mr Feng Mingwei, the deputy Mayor of Peking.

Bishop Fu described the event as "a new turning point, a new leaf" for the church, which will now be run by the Patriotic Catholic Association, set up after relations were broken with the Vatican in 1957. He called on Chinese Catholics "to love God, love the country and the people".

To the 30,000 Catholics in Peking who recognize the leadership of their independent church, it mattered little that the bishop's robes were a poor copy of those worn by Rome's representatives elsewhere. Bishop Fu was adorned in a white and gold vestment which resembled an embroidered table cloth.

The pews, however, were newly carved mahogany, while the wooden columns were freshly painted in red, green and gold.

The Chinese Government provided £250,000 for the restoration of the cathedral which was closed in 1957 and later turned into a storehouse during the Cultural Revolution.



An Algerian court sentenced 19 alleged sarporters of former President Ahmed Ben Bella (above) to prison terms of up to 13 years after convicting them of threatening national security. (AP reports). Three others were sentenced to 20-year prison terms in absentia and 21 were acquitted. Mr Ben Bella was Algeria's first president after independence in 1962. He was overthrown in 1965 by Colonel Boumédienne and placed under house arrest but *was allowed by President* Chadil to go into exile in 1980.

Ten of Bhagwan's aides expelled by India

Delhi (Reuter, AFP) – The Indian Government has expelled ten senior aides of the controversial guru, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, who returned to India from the United States last month.

Officials said the aides, including the Bhagwan's personal physician, cook and nurse, were asked to leave last week when their temporary visas expired.

They said the guru's personal secretary, Ma Prem Hasya, who held a US passport under her original name of Francoise Ruddy Meredith, left yesterday for Kathmandu after the authorities cancelled her six-month visa.

The Bhagwan, aged 54, ran a commune in the United States for four years but left abruptly last month after pleding guilty to violating immigration laws by arranging sham marriages for his foreign followers.

He said he admitted the charges because his life was in danger from US politicians, who feared the influence of his 500,000 followers.

The guru, who left behind 90 Rolls Royces and a small fleet of aircraft, has set up headquarters in the resort town of Manali in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh.

Interviewed in Manali, the Bhagwan said he was disillusioned with India

Unionists split on pact tactics

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Unionist leaders in Northern Ireland are divided on their strategy for next year after a series of by-elections demonstrated opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

As they prepare for a mini general election in 15 constituencies next month, doubts are growing as to how long they can maintain the momentum of their campaign and what *tactics should be followed* after polling day on January 23.

Debate has started amongst senior Unionist figures in both the Democratic and Official Unionist parties about whether they should talk with the Social Democratic and Labour party.

Several senior figures recognized that Unionist tactics must be more positive, rather then the negative face they have so far presented to the world. Some suggest that Unionists *must consider all options,* however distasteful, for the province's future.

Mr Frink Millar, chief executive of the Official Unionist Party said: "We have got to bring this province rapidly to a crisis. Any Unionist who thinks you could destroy this thing as the result of a prolonged battle is deluding himself. The longer it goes on, the more likly it is to gain acquiescence".

Within the Official Unionist party there are serious misgivings about the present tactics, particularly as there have been minor outbreaks of violence and two protests. There is doubt also about the commitment of leading figures, including Mr James Molyneaux, the party leader and formerly Official Unionist MP for Langan Valley, to a campaign involving street protests and frequent appearances on the same platform with his rival, the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party.

● The second of 26 Irish National Liberation Army *terrorists, convicted last week* on the word of police informers began a hunger stike yesterday in the Maze prison near Belfast.

The Northern Ireland Office *confirmed that Gerrard Steen*son, aged 27, of Dunlwey Street, Belfast, who was given six life sentences for six separate murders, had begun refusing meals. He joins Robert *Tohill, aged 26, another con*victed murderer, who began his fast on Thursday last week and has since taken nothing but water.

Republican sources said the 26 men would go on hunger strike at weekly intervals

Phnom Penh says rebels giving up

From Paul Routledge
Singapore

More than 4,000 Cambodian resistance fighters battling the Vietnamese-installed administration of Mr Heng Samrin have *surrendered this year, according* to the government news agency in Phnom Penh.

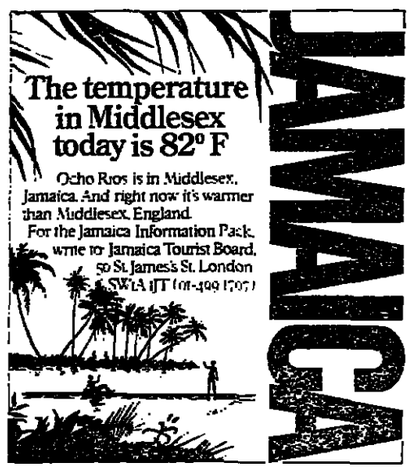
The figure, up by about a quarter on the previous year, was given yesterday as China promised to continue backing the rebel "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" until final victory.

The Cambodian agency SPK, monitored in Bangkok, argued that the guerillas were giving up the armed struggle because of "Government clemency", military defeats and squabbling within the ranks of the tripartite coalition.

It has been no secret that the coalition forces sometimes *spend more time attacking* each other that fighting the estimated 170,000 occupying Vietnamese forces, and in recent months their guerrilla activity has been sparodic.

Nothing has yet emerged from two days of exploratory peace talks held in *Jakarta just* before Christmas between high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials of Vietnam and Indonesia.

The meeting was designed to launch a new initiative in the seven-year-old conflict.





Gorbachov ousts Moscow party chief as purge of old guard continues

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, Soviet leader, has continued his energetic shake-up of the old guard inside the Kremlin by securing the enforced retirement of Mr Viktor Grishin, aged 71, from his influential position as chief of the Moscow city Communist Party.

The purge of deadwood has also continued in the regions with the Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Moldavia being the latest in a long line of officials to lose their jobs since Mr Gorbachov took power on March 12. Since then, more than 20 per cent of officials have been replaced.

The retirement of Mr Grishin, announced briefly on Tass, had been widely predicted because he was known as one of the three remaining opponents of Mr Gorbachov still to retain his seat in the ruling Politburo. Although he is not expected to loose that fromally until the new year, without his Moscow power bases, his is a spent political force.

A former train driver whose name had been tainted by allegations of curruption in the vast Moscow regional organization, Mr Grishin was one of the least colourful members of the heirarchy.

"Grishin's departure could be the catalyst for the replacement of many other officials in the Moscow area," one diplomat explained. "The fact that Mr Gorbachov personally attended the meeting which retired him was a sign that there might have been some resistance."

The removal of Mr Grishin two months before the 27th Communist Paty Congress was seen by Kremlin-watchers as a sign that Mr Gorbachov is pressing ahead ruthlessly with his purge of party deadwood despite hints of resistance in some quarters of the big Soviet bureaucracy.

The ousting of Mr Grishin from his Moscow party base was seen by Western observers as reinforcing earlier moves when Mr Gorbachov secured the sacking from the Politburo of his main rival, Mr Grigory Romanov, and the retirement in September of the country's octogenarian Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov.

Close attention will now be paid to the political future of the Soviet leader's other two main opponents in the ruling Politburo, Mr Vladimir Scherbitsky and Mr Kinmukhamed Kunayev. Neither is expected to remain at the centre of power for much longer and both are likely to be replaced by younger men more in Mr Gorbachov's own mould.

Nmr Grishin, a close associate of the former party leader, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, was replaced as Moscow party head by Mr Boris Yeltsin, aged 54, one of the new generation of young Soviet politicians closely associated with the style and views of Mr Gorbachov.

In the nine months since Mr Gorbachov took control, Mr Yeltsin, an engineer, has emerged from relative obscurity to become one of the fastest rising stars in the party. In April he was made head of the Central Committee's construction department and three months later was appointed one of 11 Central Committee secretaries.

It is widely expected that in 1986 Mr Yeltsin's position will be consolidad when he is appointed either to full or candidate (non-voting) membership of the 12-man Politburo.

One area where he is likely to become quickly involved is Moscow's serious housing problem. Recently the city administration has been attacked sharply in the state media, with one article accusing officials of falsifying figures to cover up shortcomings.



An Iranian soldier on battlefield patrol in the Huwaizah marshland on the Iraqi border where a fresh offensive is expected.

Iran ready to risk marshland campaign

From A Correspondent, Bahrain

Iran's massing of troops along its southern border with Iraq is the latest sign that the nagging Gulf War is far from resolution.

Western diplomats in the region estimate that Iran has sent at least 500,000 men to the front in preparation for a ground offensive. Expecting an assault across the Huwaizah marshland, the Iraqis have strengthened their armoured units and sent their jets on scores of raids to try to demoralize the Iranian troops.

Iran appears to be willing to risk a repeat of its campaign in Huwaizah last March, in which at least 40,000 Iranians and 15,000 Iraqis died, if only to "punish" Iraq for its escalation of the war since the autumn.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq pledged in August that his forces would strike at Iran's vital economic installations until the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini agreed to negotiate an end to the five-year conflict.

He has backed up his threat with more than 50 air raids on the Kharg Island oil terminal, through which Iran exports about 90 per cent of its oil, as well as intermittent sorties against Iranian electrical and oil pumping stations.

The Iranian leaders have remained insistent, however, that President Saddan must be ousted before peace can be discussed.

The smaller, Arab nations of the area have become increasingly concerned about the conflict widening to engulf them. As a British diplomat in Bahrain said: "If you are a mouse living with two elephants, you may be happy to see them distracted, but you worry one might roll over on you."

The "elephants" have made life more difficult around the Gulf. Neutral freighters, even close to the Saudi coast, have been hit by Iraqi missiles. And Iran has boarded scores of ships in the Gulf and in the Sea of Oman to search for and impound cargo it believes may be destined for Iraq.

PROBLEMS IN THE GULF
Part 1



The Gulf states must also live with repeated Iranian threats that it will close the Strait of Hormuz.

It was not surprising that the Gulf Co-operation Council, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. In a strategic and economic Alliance, shifted its stance in November from pro-Iraq towards neutrality, apparently hoping to press Iraq and appease Iran toward peace.

With his Arab support on the wane, President Saddam flew unexpectedly to Moscow last week to shore up relations with his key military supplier. As well as weapons, he was expected to seek Soviet help in ending Syria's support for Iran.

The non-warring Gulf states are meanwhile increasing self-defence efforts.

Saudi Arabia this autumn agreed to buy more than £3 billion worth of militarry aircraft from Britain, and its allies in the GCC are discussing an oil "safety net"

Gulf customers are also taking defensive steps. Transit freight business is sharply increased at the United Arab Emirates ports outside the Gulf, and non-Gulf oil terminals, notably the Saudi site at Yanbu on the Red Sea, are being expanded to provide safe loading berths for Western tankers.

Tomorrow: Economic pains

50 Vietnam refugees murdered by pirates

Geneva (Reuter) – Pirates killed 50 Vietnam boat refugees and kidnapped a pregnant woman, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said here yesterday.

About 20 pirates with iron bars and knives came alongside in two fishing vessels on December 16, boarded the boat and forced every male aged over 17 into the South China Sea, where all but two drowned.

The pirates separated the pregnant woman from her children and threw her husband overboard. There were 30 survivors

Dates set for chess play-offs

Lucerne (Reuter) – The semi-finals to select a challenger for the world chess championship will begin next month, with three Soviet players and one from The Netherlands competing.

Rafael Vaganian and Anorei Sokolov start their semi-final on January 8 in Minsk; Artur Yusupov and Dutchman Jan Timman begin their match on January 15 in Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Cars recalled

Paris (Reuter) – Renault is recalling more than 1.5 million cars for safety checks affecting Renault 9 and Renault 11 models produced before July this year. It follows the discovery of corrosion in some steering boxes. Only French-manufactured cars are involved.

Plague strikes

Dar es Salaam (Reuter) – Five people have died of bubonic plague in north-east Tanzania and 30 more are in hospital, Radio Tanzania reported.

Sudan ambush

Cairo (Reuter) – Sudanese rebels said they killed 50 government troops in a Christmas Eve ambush of a convoy travelling between Rumbek and Yirol in southern Sudan.

Asylum pleas

Hamburg (AP) – About 20 Poles on holiday visits to the West asked for political asylum in West Germany on Christmas Eve, police here said.

Kabul tries carrot and stick policy

Islamabad (Reuter) – A security crackdown and a new drive to win over public opinion marked Kabul's official preparations for the sixth anniversary of Moscow's armed intervention in Afghanistan.

Soviet troops in flak jackets are often seen patrolling the capital's streets. Western diplomats said, and protection for Communist leaders has become the most thorough ever witnessed.

President Babrak Karmal, installed in power on December 27, 1979, after about 80,000 Soviet troops were flown in to support the faltering Communist Party, called last month for a "national compromise".

He admitted indirectly that his Government, now backed by about 115,000 Soviet troops, had not been very successful in winning over the population.

Last Saturday a new commission was set up to look after Afghans returning from refugee camps in Pakistan. The Government promised to pay them a subsistence allowance, accommodate them and provide jobs and land.

Western diplomats said the Government's continued inability to win popular support had presumably prompted it to adopt a more flexible policy but doubted if it would bring President Karmal many more supporters.

Abdul Haq, a Peshawar-based rebel commander who staged a spectacular series of raids on Kabul in December, 1982, gave journalists a sober assessment of the guerrilla's position.

He said many villages around Kabul which doubled as rebel hideouts, had been emptied by communist troops and the 107mm rocket used by the rebels to hit Kabul was "better than nothing but not accurate".

"The Soviets are better trained, better equipped with air and artillery support, and have better communications to call them in," he said.

"The Mujahideen have been slow in adapting. Our weaponry has not greatly improved and we don't have a good programme for training."

leading article, page 13

Pretoria troops hit guerrillas in Angola

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African troops have killed 15 guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) in eight separate contacts in a continuing operation inside southern Angola which began on December 14, according to South African sources.

The sources also claimed that seven arms caches and a temporary guerrilla base had been destroyed by "a small element" of South African troops.

Swapo has been fighting for the independence of South African-occupied Namibia for nearly 20 years, and has operated from bases in Angola for most of the last 10.

Official military spokesmen here refused to comment on the operation, or on a claim five days ago by the Angolan Government that for South African Army battalions, backed by tanks and aircraft, had pushed up to 60 miles into the south-western Cunene province.

The Angolans further alleged that the real purpose of the operation was not to strike at Swapo guerrillas, but to help the forces of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement, engaged in a civil war with Luanda since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.

Angop, the Angolan state news agency, claimed last Saturday that South African Mirage fighters and other military aircraft had violated Angolan air space over south-eastern provinces 11 times between November 25 and December 20.

In Washington, Unita's foreign affairs spokesmam, Mr Jeremias Chitunda, claimed that heavy fighting was going on between Dr Savimbi's forces and Angolan troops trying to advance on Mavinga and Jamba, two Unita strongholds in south-west Angola.

Mr Chitunda said that Unita had lost about 50 men and the Angolan forces "at least" 200. The government attack, he said, had been launched from Cuito Cuanavale, from where between 1,500 and 2,000 Cuban soldiers were providing logistic support and flying some MiG fighters and helicopters for the Angolans. Luanda has not announced any new offensive.

Military analysts here doubt that the fighting is on the same scale as the last Angolan offensive, supported by the Russians and Cubans, between July and October. Unita held off that attack, but only with the aid most observers believe, of South African air strikes at a crucial stage in the fighting.

It is rather surprising that Luanda should have launched another offensive so soon, as the rainy season has now arrived, giving Unita's more mobile guerrillas an advantage by bogging down the mechanized armoured columns of the government forces.

A former US ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, claimed in the *Washington Post* earlier this week that Cuban troops commanded by Soviet officers "fresh from Afghanistan" were being deployed in the latest Luanda offensive against Unita.

Civil Guard chief jostled at funeral

From Harry Debelius
Madrid

Angry mourners at the funeral of retired Lieutenant-General Juan Atares, assassinated by Basque extremists, jostled and insulted the commanding general of the Civil Guard and other officials, and showered them with coins as a gesture of scorn, according to reports published here yesterday.

The funeral took place in the northern city of Pamplona on Christmas Eve. As Lieutenant-General José Saenz de Santamaria, the Director-General of Spain's paramilitary forces, left the local Civil Guard headquarters, where a Requiem Mass was held, men from a crowd of about 2,000 surged forward and grappled with policemen protecting him.

There were also shouts of "Government, resign", "Get tough", "ETA to the firing squad" and "Santamaria quit".

Protesters banged their fists on the general's car as it drove away in a shower of coins. The Madrid Government's delegate in the region of Navarra, Señor Luis Roldan, was also hit by coins, as was the Chief Minister of the Navarra regional government, Señor Gabriel Urralburu; the Commander of the Western Perinese Military District, Lieutenant-General Miquel Iniquez del Moral.

In a communiqué, the terrorist organzation ETA has admitted responsibility for the shooting of General Atares, and for three other attacks on Civil Guard officers

The general's funeral coincided with the release from prison of one more ETA activist, granted a special pardon under the Government's controversial programme of "social reintegration" of members of ETA who agree to give up violence.

● **Politicians jailed:** The Supreme Court in Madrid has sentenced two Basque political leaders to one year's imprisonment yesterday for making press statements in defence of terrorism (AP reports). The court also ordered Jon Idigoras and Inaki Ruiz de Pinedo, leaders of Herri Batasuma, a Marxist-inspired political party advocating the Basque regime's separation from Spain, to pay fines of 100,000 pesetas (£450).

Mexican treasures stolen in break-in

Mexico City (AP) – More than 140 artefacts in the National Museum of Anthropology and History have been stolen in the country's largest archaeological theft, the government newspaper *El Nacional* reported yesterday.

Among the objects missing on Christmas Day from the Maya, Mexica and Oaxaca exhibition areas were almost all those on display from the sacred reservoir at Chichen Itzá in the Yucatán peninsula, several pieces from the Palenque ruins in southern Mexico, and rare golden artefacts in the Mixtec room.

Also listed as missing were the Zapotec mask of the "Murcielago," or bat god, and an invaluable Axtec obsidian sculpture representing a monkey.

Señor Enrique Florescano, the museum's director, said the stolen pieces could not be sold in Mexico, and probably would be smuggled out for sale

Chinese quiet on hijacking of Soviet plane

Peking (Reuter) – Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of a Soviet airliner hijacked to China last week and the fate of the man believed to be the hijacker.

Chinese officials were tight-lipped over what happened to the civilian Antonov 24, thought to have been carrying about 50 passengers and crew on a flight to North Korea.

The Foreign Ministry said on Christmas Day that the airliner was forced down in China's northernmost province of Heilongjiang on Thursday last week.

"The crew and all passengers returned safely to the Soviet Union on December 21," Mr Ma Yuzhen, head of the ministry's information department, said. He gave no other details.

A Hong Kong newspaper with close ties to China, *Ta Kung Pao*, reported that a man with a knife forced the aircraft to land.

● MOSCOW: The Soviet Union has formally thanked the Chinese Government for its co-operation over the hi-jacking Christopher Walker writes. Tass said: "The Soviet side expressed gratitude to the Chinese authorities for the spirit of good neighbourly co-operation they displayed in the situation."



The Dalai Lama, self-exiled from Tibet since 1959, addressing a gathering of some 200,000 Buddhist monks from all over the world at the start of a week of religious ceremonies at Bodhgaya, in northern India.

Minorities protest in Shanghai

Nuclear tests spark off student anger

Peking (AFP) – About 100 Muslim students from the remote north-western region of Xinjiang yesterday staged a protest in Shanghai against nuclear tests in the province, it has been claimed.

The students, who gathered in the city centre, were also protesting at the presence of labour camps in Xinjiang.

Witnesses said they carried banners saying "stop nuclear tests" and "do not turn Xinjiang into a concentration camp", a source in Shanghai said.

The demonstration came after a meeting in Peking on Christmas Day between ethnic minority students and Chinese officials called after a similar demonstration in Peking on Sunday.

About half the 300 students of the Uigur and Kazak minorities stormed out of the meeting, calling on the others to follow them, after the officials rejected demands for an end to nuclear testing, according to a student at the meeting.

Five Chinese officials spoke to the students at the National Minorities Institute through a Uigur interpreter, telling them that the nuclear tests were necessary and that China's policies towards minorities were already generous, a student said.

On Sunday 400 Uigur students proclaimed their support during a protest march for recent student demonstrators in Urumchi, the capital of Xinjiang, and presented a senior Chinese official with a petition

The demonstrators were told they should expect to be punished if they protested again, the student said.

According to the student, officials told the meeting China had carried out only 22 nuclear tests, compared with more than 100 conducted by the United States and the Soviet Union, and a large number by France.

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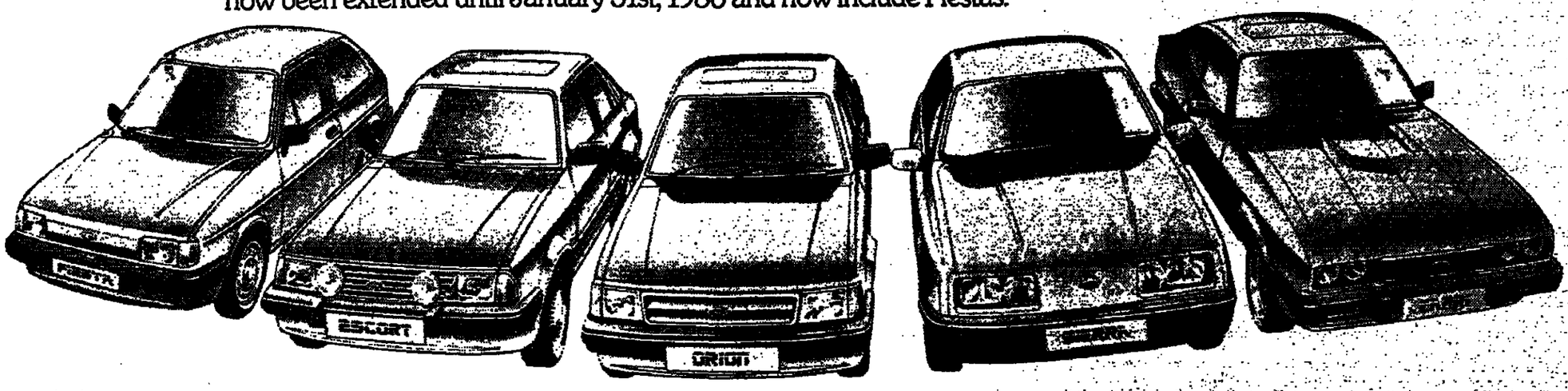
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Initial Payment (minimum 20%)	932.26	932.26	1231.46	1231.46	1465.69	1465.69	1678.07	1678.07	1440.79	1440.79
Amount of Credit	3729.05	3729.05	4925.86	4925.86	5862.75	5862.75	6712.28	6712.28	5763.18	5763.18
36 Monthly Instalments of	118.81	137.77	156.94	181.98	186.79	216.60	213.86	247.98	183.62	212.92
Charge for Credit	548.11	1230.67	723.98	1625.42	861.69	1934.85	986.68	2215.00	847.14	1901.94
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Ford

Claims of border victories made by Mali and Burkina Faso

Bamako, Mali (AFP) – Border clashes between soldiers from Mali and Burkina Faso have left 20 Burkina Faso nationals and one Malian dead, an official statement released yesterday in the Malian capital said.

The statement came amid conflicting reports on the fighting, which began on Wednesday in the Agacher strip, a remote border area between the two states. The area is believed to be rich in minerals.

Yesterday's Milian statement, issued by the Defence Ministry, said Malian troops had also captured a "Burkina Faso commando group with all its weapons, proceeding to Dioulouna", one of four villages reported to have been attacked by Mail on Wednesday.

It said Malian troops had seized "an important quantity of individual and collective arms" from opposing forces and indicated that the National Army "continued with honour, courage and determination to repulse the aggressors".

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso, in a radio broadcast monitored in Abidjan, said its soldiers had recaptured one of the four villages and scored a victory over the Malians. The report said fighting in the disputed region had "culminated in victory" for Burkina Faso troops.

A military communiqué said troops had "mopped up" the Malian presence in Diounouga.

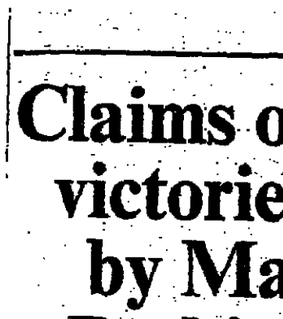
After the outbreaks of hostilities, senior officials claimed that Burkina Faso troops had killed 10 Malian soldiers, injured many others and destroyed six tanks. They said Malian forces had killed four Burkina Faso civilians and injured 11 in the original attack on the disputed villages.

The Malian Foreign Minister, Alioune Blondin Beye, said earlier yesterday that his country's forces had pushed 18 miles into Burkina Faso territory and that Mali "was taking all other steps to prevent the aggression from being repeated."

In another development late on Christmas Day the French Foreign Ministry called for "caution, moderation and discussion" from both sides and indicated that Paris was working towards a solution to hostilities.

The French appeal, however, prompted a rebuke yesterday from Radio Tripoli, which warned Paris to "refrain from intervening in African affairs."

"If this conflict had to take place, it is as a consequence of its past colonial policy," the radio added. It said that the Libyan leader Colonel Gadaffi had sent his Foreign Minister to mediate.



Dispute centres on area believed rich in minerals

By Richard Everett

Christmas Day clashes between government forces on the Mali-Burkina Faso border are the latest and most serious development in a continuing border dispute between the two countries. Mali said on Wednesday that its forces had penetrated 20 miles into Burkina Faso territory, while Burkina Faso said it had destroyed Malian tanks and killed 10 Malian soldiers.

The dispute centres on the 12-mile wide Agacher Strip, which is reputed to have sizeable manganese reserves. Neither of the countries, two of Africa's poorest, has been able to exploit the reserves due to lack of transport, although Burkina Faso is currently working on extending the Abidjan-Ouagadougou rail line into the regions.

Disagreement over the border predates the two countires' independence from France in 1960 and is a reminder of the colonial ear, when both country's borders were drawn and redrawn to suit colonial administrators.

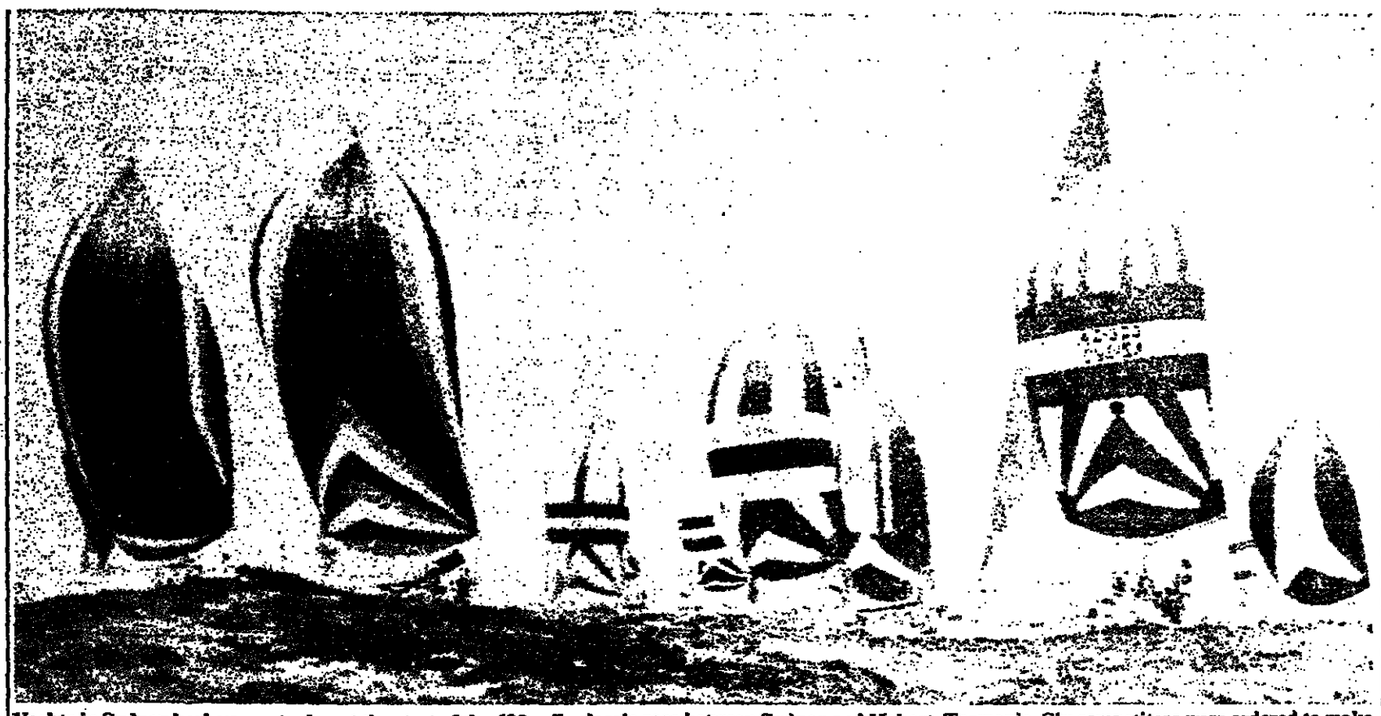
Burkina Faso, then known as Upper Volta, was twice parcelled out to neighbouring countries, a factor which part by explains its fierce pride in maintaining the present boundaries.

Tension over the border issue since independence has been a barometer of relations between the two countries. In 1974 border forces clashed. The incident was ended through negotiations and both sides have since agreed to take the issue before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. However, the court proceedings have dragged on and the court has yet to issue a final decision.

In recent months tension between the two governments has mounted further after the expulsion from Ouagadougou of the Malian head of a regional economic organization. Mr Drissa Keita, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of West African States, (CEAO) was expelled in September after an interview published in the Paris-based *Jeune Afrique* magazine, in which he criticized the Burkina Faso head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, over his method of running the organization.

Captain Sankara, currently chairman of CEAO, has vowed to end alleged corruption in the organization, but has raised tensions in the region by threatening to prosecute former CEAO officials for embezzlement. Western diplomats in Ouagadougou say the radical young military officer's outspoken style has ruffled the feathers of older, more conservative leaders in the organization, including President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast and President Traore of Mali.

Diplomats note that the expulsion of Mr Keita brought Burkina Faso-Mali relations to a new low.



Yachts in Sydney harbour yesterday at the start of the 630-mile classic race between Sydney and Hobart, Tasmania. Six competitors were ordered to make re-starts after crossing the line too soon.

Mitterrand in sudden Egypt visit

From Susan MacDonald
Paris

President Mitterrand's decision to spend Christmas on a private visit to Egypt has given rise to considerable speculation in the French media.

There were few advance details of the President's movements and the announcement of the visit itself came only as the President was leaving for Egypt on Monday.

Although he has been spending a good deal of his time sightseeing, it is considered by the press here that his visit is intended to bolster President Mubarak of Egypt who is due to visit Paris at the end of next month.

President Mitterrand has, over the past few months, been in contact with leading Middle East figures in a effort to improve the chances of Israeli - Arab peace talks.

According to *Le Monde*, President Mitterrand and President Mubarak dined together on Tuesday evening. In an interview published in the paper on Christmas Eve, President Mubarak said he would renew his pressure on Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, who is expected soon in Egyupt, to recognize the state of Israel.

● ASWAN: President Mitterrand flew to this Nile valley winter resort yesterday, local officials here said (Reuter reports).

Zaire releases Cuban troops on stray flight

Kinshasa (Reuter) – Zaire has freed 44 foreign soldiers who were on a plane which made an emergency landing on its territory, Kinshasa radio reported.

The 40 Cubans, three Angolans and a Cameroonian were handed over to the Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister,

The transport plane was flying from the town of Luene in Angola to the Angolan enclave of Cabinoa when it landed in Zaire 180 miles southeast of Kinshasa on December 1.

British aid to Uganda depends on success of peace pact

By Richard Dowden

Britain has told Uganda's leaders bluntly that unless they keep to the peace agreement signed earlier this month they will get no aid. The Ugandans have to work it out for themselves and make the agreement stick.

The most important and sensitive aspect of a three-part British aid package is the military advice team which is expected to go to Kampala as soon as a new Military Council is formed and a Minister of Defence and Chief of Staff appointed. Led by Major-General Anthony Pollard, it will act as a neutral source of advice, keeping in touch with all the six parties which will make-up the Military Council. General Pollard's team will work on the estimate that there are about 34,000 "soldiers" of various factions. They will advise how these can be reduced to a new army of 8,480. Twenty thousand of the armed men belong to the Uganda Army and a further 7,000 are thought to be former Amin soldiers brought in by the new Uganda Government after the July coup.

The Ugandan soldier is paid 9,000 shillings £6 a month which barely provides for a week's food and it is normal practice for most soldiers to rob and pillage.

Reports from Kampala say that many of the former Amin soldiers, whose number should be reduced to fewer than 1,000 by the agreement, have started to move back to their west Nile homes, looting and killing as they go. The most dangerous period, however, will come when the capital is demilitarized.

Under the agreement signed in Nairobi earlier this month, the National Resistance Army rebels who have been fighting the Government since 1981 agreed with the Government for form a new ruling Military Council and a new army made up of both sides.

A monitoring force provided by Kenya and Tanzania was due to go to Kampala just before Christmas to undertake the task of identifying who and where the armed men are. By yesterday the Kenyans had arrived but the Tanzanians had not.

In order to resettle the demobilized soldiers, Britain is to provide £5 million for short-term agricultural programmes. The EEC has also agreed to support the programme.

The third part of the aid package will be long term, aimed at rehabilitating the country's basic structures, training the police force and refurbishing the Owen's Falls Dam.

Britain will also provide a military training team of about 15 and 20 people to continue the work of training army officers started under Dr Milton Obote's Government.

Both Mr Yoweri Museveni, the NRA leader, and Mr Olara Otunno, the Uganda Foreign Minister, had visited Tripoli in recent weeks, apparently to persuade Colonel Gadaffi not to interfere in Uganda's affairs. Colonel Gadaffi provided aid and troops for Idi Amin, and Ugandans fear he may try again to exploit rival factions to gain influence.

The Uganda Freedom Movement has denied asking Colonel Gadaffi for support just before the peace agreement was signed. Mr Amin Mutyaba, the Vice-Chairman, denied a report in *The Times* that party officials went to Tripoli earlier this month to seek help.

Peru threat to seize oil firms

Lima (Reuter) – President Garcia of Peru threatened to take over the operations of three foreign oil companies unless they agreed by midnight last night to invest more in oil exploration and pay higher taxes.

Peru suspended the contracts of the companies – Occidental and Belco of the United States and a joint US-Argentine consortium – last August. Seizure of the installations could lead to the suspension of US aid.

Sex first for Chinese readers

Peking (AFP) – China's three best-selling books are a sex-manual, an English teaching guide and a selection of the works of Deng Xiaoping, the New China News Agency said.

Top of the list is *On Love*, a guide to sex and love for adults, followed by a *Guide for taking Tests in English in the English Language*. The third is a collection of speeches and articles by Mr Deng entitled *Building Socialism with Characteristics*.

Jail justice

Tel Aviv (AP) – Two Palestinian prisoners were choked to death by their cellmates in the occupied Gaza strip because they collaborated with Israeli authorities, a prison spokesman said.

29-year coma

Caracas (Reuter) – A Venezuelan woman who fell into a coma 29 years ago because of a medical error while she was having her tonsils removed has died of a lung infection.

Desert farm

Jerusalem (AP) – Israel and Egypt have signed a pact to set up a farm in Egypt's western desert using Israeli agricultural expertise.

Second eruption feared on Etna

From Peter Nichols
Rome

Precautionary measures are being taken in towns and villages on the slopes of Mount Etna in Sicily in case the spectacular eruption which occurred on Christmas morning develops into something much more serious.

An emergency meeting yesterday in Catania of the "High Risks Commission" of the Ministry for Civil Defence was told that the ground round the summit of the mountain was showing signs of rising, due to underground pressure.

The committee said there was a possibility of a dangerous explosion, accompanied by further earth tremors. With the agreement of the mayors of the towns around the volcano, tents have been set up in Zafferena and other areas as a precautionary measure.

The limited eruption in the early hours of December 25, was dramatic visually, but the lava ran mainly in the sparsely populated valley of the Bove, where it did little damage. At the same time one of several earth tremors destroyed the hotel Le Betulle near Linguaglossa.

The one person to lose his life, Signor Carmelo Di Stefano, was a 34 year old bank clerk. Others among the 35 guests in the hotel were injured, but only two, the victim's sister-in-law and nephew had to remain in hospital.

Etna is the biggest of European volcanoes still active and is impressive because of its constant smoking, even when an actual eruption is not takin place. Its bulk commands much of the beautiful coast of eastern Sicily, just as Vesuvius, the second most famous Italian volcano, dominates the Bay of Naples.

But Vesuvius is only a third of the size of Etna and although still active does not provide the constant note of menace which Etna gives to the whole countryside around it.

Grammatically, Vesuvius is "masculine" and is as regarded as acting in a typically patriarchal manner, erupting seldom but when it does so with severe and damaging effect to which the burried cities of Pompei and Herculaneum bear witness.

The "formidable" Etna destroyed much of Catania in 1669 and 24 years later an earthquake of volcanic origin destroyed the city entirely. Hence the warnings are taken seriously, even if Etna's usual behaviour seems a constant nagging rather than the infliction of disaster.

Bank's bill for forced labour

Cologne, (AP) – Deutsche Bank, West Germany's largest bank, has been asked for up to DM 8 million (£2.2m) in reparations for the forced labour of Jews during the Nazi era, a German Jewish leader was quoted as saying.

Herr Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Central Council of German Jews, said in an interview with the *Kolner Express* that his agency made the request for reparations in a letter to the bank.

Ideological crackdown

Jaruzelski launches drive on Polish dissidents

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish leadership is launching a campaign in the new year to bring greater ideological strictness into public life.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Solidarity supporters in university and school administration and nonconfromist writers will be among the first victims of the crackdown.

Mr Walesa, protected to some extent by his international reputation, has avoided being put on trial so far. But his lawyers have been told that an indictment against him is ready and the chances are he will stand trial in the next month charged with slandering the authorities.

The Solidarity chairman had accused the Government of faking the results of the parliamentary elections last October.

In addition, a group of fiercely nationalist dissidents, the leaders of the so-called Confederation for the Independence of Poland (KPN), will face trial in January.

In the universities and colleges of higher education, the authorities will begin vetting lecturers, a process known as verification, having already dismissed those vice-chancellors or senior staff who disagreed with the plan.

The publishing houses are also under pressure to remove nonconformist writers novelists, for example, who also publish abroad or illegally, from their lists. More paper, the authorities say, will be allocated to publishers producing Socialist literature.

The moves reflect an attempt by General Jaruzelski to bring more discipline and assertiveness into Communist Party affairs before an important party congress in the third week of June.

Hard line Marxists would like to change the composition of the Central Committee elected during the Solidarity era, in their favour. General Jaruzelski is getting tougher to head off objections that the party has become too passive and tolerant. He hopes this will take the steam away from the hardline critics.

The general, who is the party chief, told a central Committee session at the weekend that conversations would be held with every party member to assess ideological views. This will give him some idea of the strength of his hardline critics. He has appointed a trusted Army colleague, General Jozef Baryla, to the Central Committee secretariat to help prepare for the congress.

Lech Walesa described his impending trial as ridiculous, but said he was ready to fight it out in the court-room. He faces two years' jail or a heavy fine.

Student of law to head Assam

From A Correspondent
Delhi

Six years of agitation in Assam against the domination of the Congress (I) Party came to an end yesterday with the swearing in as Chief Minister of Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, of the Asom Gana Parised party.

The student-dominated AGP campaigned on a platform to end migration from Bangladesh, and the elections took place in line with an accord struck between Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and the agitators last August.

Mr Mahanta is a 32-year-old post-graduate law student, and his ministers are equally young and inexperienced, but most political observers believe they can bring peace to Assam after years of violence. The AGP's success brings to six the total of states now controlled by non-Congress (I) parties.

Tsar's winter palace found

Moscow (Reuter) – Soviet conservationists have found the former winter palace of Peter the Great under the site of the Hermitage theatre in Leningrad, Tass reported yesterday.

The two-storey palace near the Neva river, with about 40 rooms, included the personal suite of the 18-century tsar and a jetty for his boat.

General is surprise suspect in coup plot

By A Correspondent

A senior member of Nigeria's Armed Forces' Ruling Council, Major-General Mamman Jaya Vatsa, is understood to have been arrested by the Special Investigations Bureau of the Nigerian Army.

General Vatsa is Minister for the Federal Capital Development Authority, charged with establishing the nation's new capital at Abuja, in the Northern part of the country. He held this portfolio under General Buhari, who was ousted in August, and was retained by General Babangida, the new President.

It is believed that General Vatsa's arrest is connected with the coup attempt announced last week.

Informed sources say, however, that this is surprising since two of the lieutenant-colonels arrested last week are known to have plotted to kill General Vatsa, among others.

But it is also known that one of the senior Air Force officers arrested last week is a close relative of General Vatsa's wife. It is believed that the military authorities feel that he may have contacted General Vatsa and tipped him off to save his life.

General Vatsa is known as a poet and author of children's books. He was commander of the Federal Guards under General Obasanjo from 1976 to 1979.

He is from Niger state, which is also the home state of President Babangida of whom he was a school classmate. They were also on a military course together. There has been some rivalry between them for military positions in the past.

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Court of Appeal — Law Report December 27 1985 — Queen's Bench

Misleading instructions made goods unfit for their purpose

Wormell v R. H. M. Agricultural (East) Ltd

Before Mr Piers Ashworth, QC

[Judgment delivered December 6]

For the purposes of section 14 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979, the word "goods" included the packaging and instructions for the goods so that goods with instructions which were misleading were not reasonably fit for their purpose and further, although the instructions were provided by the manufacturers, the retailer of the goods was liable under section 14 for breach of the implied term that the goods were fit for their purpose.

Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, sitting as deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when giving judgment for the plaintiff, Mr Peter Roydon Wormell, against the defendants, R. H. M. Agricultural (East) Ltd for breach of contract in supplying to the plaintiff a herbicide known as "commando" which was produced by Shell Chemicals U K Ltd.

Mr Richard Rundell for the plaintiff. Miss Adrienne Page for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiff was an experienced farmer who over the years had vastly improved his land. He had sowed 800 acres of winter wheat. The spring of 1983 was very much wetter and somewhat colder than usual. That had the effect of retarding the growth of the crop to a small extent and the greater effect of preventing farmers from getting on to their land for spraying herbicides.

By March 1983 the plaintiff was unable to use any wild oats killer but still wanted to do so. In March and again in April, he approached the defendants about a wild oats killer.

The plaintiff was told that "commando" was not only the best but the only one to use. It was understood that the plaintiff would use it in accordance with its instructions.

Because of the wet weather, the plaintiff was unable to get on to his land until June. Before spraying, he read the instructions on the can carefully. He realised that by June, the wheat had got slightly beyond the recommended rate of growth or was on the borderline.

He thought "commando" would kill wild oats at any stage but that it might damage his crop if used beyond the recommended stage of growth.

He decided that the need to kill wild oats was so desperate that he would take the risk. He applied the spray effectively but "commando" had only a limited effect. Having heard the expert evidence, the probable reason was that it was applied too late.

Certainly the third week of May 1983 was the last effective time for using "commando". Because of the wet ground, "commando" could not have been used effectively at all in 1983.

That was something known only to Shell and other experts in that field. All that was known to the plaintiff and other farmers was what appeared on the label on the can.

The label covered virtually the whole of the can and contained detailed information and instructions. Two questions arose. First, how did the plaintiff understand the instructions, and second, how would a reasonable user understand them?

There was no doubt that the plaintiff understood the label as meaning, provided there were good growing conditions, he could kill wild oats whatever time he sprayed but if he sprayed beyond the recommended time, there was a risk to his crop.

On a fair reading of the instructions, they did represent that it was dangerous to spray the crop outside the recommended period, but provided it was sprayed during good growing conditions, wild oats would be killed.

The plaintiff's understanding of the instructions was that which any reasonable user would receive from them. There was not any statement that if "commando" was applied later than the suggested time, then that would reduce the activity of "commando" against wild oats. Yes that was something which Shell had ample evidence of.

The plaintiff's claim was solely in contract for breach of terms implied by section 14(2) and (3) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979. On the evidence, "commando" was an effective wild oats killer provided it was applied at specific times.

The plaintiff's case was that the "commando" was not reasonably fit for use as wild oats killer if it was applied in accordance with a fair interpretation of the instructions.

The instructions were not a term of the contract. They were not representations made either by the defendants or by Shell. However the word "goods" could be construed to mean the herbicide "commando" or the herbicide "commando" in its container with its packing and instructions.

No one would sell such a chemical without detailed instructions for its use. If it was sold without any instructions it would be totally unmerchantable.

The user had to know how to use it and where to use it. On the former construction, it would not be of merchantable quality because the user would not know how to use it.

The only reasonable meaning of "goods" included the packing and instructions. The goods must be looked at as a whole to see if they were of merchantable quality or reasonably fit for their purpose.

Although the user was relying on instructions provided by the manufacturer, nevertheless the retailer was warranting that the goods, used in accordance with instructions, would be reasonably fit for their purpose.

If there were no instructions as to when a chemical could be applied, it could not be reasonably fit for its purpose if it was only fit for its purpose at certain specified times.

In considering whether "commando" was reasonably fit for its purpose, the instructions or warnings on the container could properly be taken into account.

Those instructions were misleading. They were not clear. If a retailer sold goods, for example, a chemical with its container and instructions, and the instructions made the goods not fit for their purpose, then there was a breach of section 14 and a breach by the retailer or seller even if he had not the technical knowledge to see if the instructions were accurate.

The breach did not cause damage to the plaintiff's crop but caused him to waste his money, in particular to waste his "commando" and the money involved in spraying it and he was entitled to be compensated for those costs.

Solicitors: Jackson & Partners, Colchester; Metson Cross & Co.

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THE ARTS

Cinema: **David Robinson** assesses the profit and loss account of 1985

Hollywood turns its back on the adult intelligence

In the history of world cinema, 1985 may well be recorded as the blackest year of all. It was in this year that Hollywood, having for almost three-quarters of a century dominated both the industry and art of the film, ceded all pretence of serving mature adult intelligence. *Variety*, the venerable journal of American show business, expressed it best: "When the causes of the Decline of Western Civilization are finally writ, Hollywood will surely have to answer why it turned one of man's most significant art forms over to the self-gratification of high-schoolers".

It would be hard to find more than a dozen American films of 1985 that are not aimed at an audience of teenagers adjudged to be of severely limited intellectual development. The predominant industrial product in 1985 was teenage horror, teenage sex, teenage comedy. The same high-school characters appeared in film after film. The popularity of films in which violent, unconquerable, fabulous heroes commit wholesale slaughter, in defence of American values, against enemies within and without – Sylvester Stallone in *Rambo: First Blood* and Chuck Norris in *Missing in Action* and *Invasion USA* – seemed to be connected as much to the same teenage phenomenon as to the more general paranoia of the Second Cold War.

It is true in a sense that the film industry has always conceived its audience as children, for we are all of us children at heart, longing only to be told stories. The difference in better days was that the men who made films supposed that this universal child had the capacity to respond to their art with intelligence, sensitivity and hope. Robert Zemeckis's *Back to the Future* and Ron Howard's *Cocoon* are exceptional current examples of films which address the child in us without abusing our sensibilities or intelligence. There are signs of nostalgia for wiser times, too, in the attempt to revive the classic drama of the West, in Clint Eastwood's *Pale Rider* and Lawrence's Kasdan's *Silverado*.

The best of Hollywood's year hardly needs the fingers of two hands to count it: Woody Allen's magical tribute to the movies, *The Purple Rose of Cairo;* John Huston's sophisticated Mafia comedy, *Prizzi's Honour;* John Boorman's ecological spectacle, *The Emerald Forest;* Peter Weir's *Witness*, and the quieter attractions of Susan Seidelman's *Desperately Seeking Susan* and Wayne Wang's affectionate comedy of Chinese-American life, *Dim Sum – A Little Bit of Heart;* the ambition, at least, of Alan Parker's *Birdy*.

In this country we have had British Film Year. This industry public relations exercise set out with the large ambition of increasing cinema attendances by four per cent by the end of the year; and in less than that time can point to a dramatic upturn of 40 per cent. Pleasing as it would be to credit such spectacular success to BFY, the statistics will need careful analysis to eliminate other causes (*Rambo*, perhaps? Or the fall-off in enthusiasm reported in the video cassette market?).

Let us admit it in advance, however: if even some part of the increase can be credited to British Film Year, those of us who mocked its return to the publicity methods of the Thirties (handprints in concrete and star autograph sessions in the regional wildernesses) will need to eat our words.

In terms of production the most cheering phenomenon has been the appearance and the commercial success of Chris Bernard's *Letter to Brezhnev*, which declared for the first time a genuine regional and populist cinema. *Brazil* and Stephen Frears's film of Hanif Kureishi's scenario, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, were also comedies that showed that British films were not irredeemably committed to nostalgia. Other notable British films of the year were Mike Newell's *Dance With a Stranger* and Hugh Brody's *Nineteen Nineteen*. It is cheering too that two projects that have been frustrated for years, Bill Douglas's story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, *Comrades*, and Derek Jarman's *Caravaggio*, are finally in full production.

* * *

VALETE

Directors. – Orson Welles (70); Sam Peckinpah (59); Henry Hathaway (86); Sergei Yutkevitch (80) and Sergei Gerasimov (79), survivors from the heroic age of Soviet cinema.

Stars. – Francesca Bertini (93), the first diva; Simone Signoret (64); Ruth Gordon (88), acerbic comedienne and writer; Louise Brooks (79), the authentic Lulu; Rock Hudson (59); Georgia Hale (79), Chaplin's leading lady in *The Gold Rush;* Michael Redgrave (77); Dawn Addams (54); Margaret Hamilton (83), the Wicked Witch of the West; Stepin Fetchit (83); "Bilko" Phil Silvers (73); Yul Brynner, who was evasive about his age; three notable Hollywood casualties of the McCarthy black list, Gale Sondergaard (86), Albert Maltz (76), Alvah Bessie (79); Lester Cole (81).

* * *

Turning to the obligatory game of end-of-year awards, I can find no single candidate for best of the year, but offer instead:

Best US Film: *Purple Rose of Cairo* (Woody Allen).

Best British Film: *Letter to Brezhnev* (Chris Bernard).

Best Foreign-Language Film: *Ran* (Akira Kurosawa, Japan); *Vagabond* (Agnes Varda, France); *Colonel Redl* (Istvan Szabo, Hungary); *When Father Was Away on Business* (Emir Kusturica, Yugoslavia); *Yellow Earth* (Chen Kaige, China).

Best Actor: William Hurt in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Best Actress: Norma Aleandro in *The Official Story*.

Best Supporting Actor: Armin Mueller-Stahl in *Colonel Redl*.

Most Promising Newcomer: Margi Clark in *Letter to Brezhnev*.

Special Award: Channel 4, for its involvement in practically every worthwhile film production, British or foreign, of 1985.

* * *

Lou Bunin's **Alice in Wonderland** has had to wait almost forty years for a showing in this country, and now appears, with a U certificate, at the Everyman, Hampstead. Now an octogenarian, Bunin is a Russian-born painter. In 1926 he founded Chicago's Marionette Studio in collaboration with the writer Meyer Levin, and in the Thirties turned to the cinema. In 1946 he began work on a version of *Alice in Wonderland* shot in France and combining live action and puppets. By the time the film was finished, however, the Disney organization had revived a previously abandoned plan for their own *Alice*. Disney were frustrated in their attempt to prevent the release of Bunin's film by litigation, but their publicity campaign – added to the unexplained refusal of Technicolor to work for Bunin – effectively ended its commercial chances. It was never shown in this country, where it was believed that the resemblance of the Queen of Hearts to Queen Victoria was likely to prove offensive.

The film had some distinguished collaborators: Albert Lewin as a writer, Art Babbitt as animation consultant, Claude Renoir as photographer, Roland Petit as choreographer. The live action director, Dallas Bower, and the supervising editor, Inman Hunter, are British. The cast, who doubled the parts of Carroll's Oxford circle and the voices of his creatures, included Stephen Murray, Pamela Brown and Felix Aylmer. Carol Marsh, as Alice, seems too mature, and has too much the look of the Forties.

The stars though are Bunin's *puppets, which share with Starevich's* film creatures a hand-crafted look, vigour and vitality. Inspired but not restricted by Tenniel, Bunin manages to give vivid characterization even to the walk-ons, and a hauntingly sinister quality to the Duchess and the Knave of Hearts. The tragedy is that *the inferior colour system forced on* him by the non-cooperation of Technicolor has faded so badly.



The cheering phenomenon of the emergence of the first genuine regional and populist cinema: Alexandra Pigg and Peter Firth in *Letter to Brezhnev*



The Forties look: Carol March in *Alice in Wonderland*

Theatre

Cinderella
Palladium

Topping the bill of this year's Palladium panto is Des O'Connor, of the *lilting baritone and* winsome smile: an underdog star, well cast as Buttons.

It is not the most dominating of roles, but Mr O'Connor has a go, by playing as much to the house as to the surrounding *company*, and taking every chance he gets to deflate every social climber in sight. Sometimes, alas, this extends to the audience as well; as where he assembles a group of defenceless tots and proceeds to invite demotic jeers at the expense of those unlucky enough to have posh names. He then dispatches them back to their seats laden with bottles of ketchup and tins of beans.

Inside the story, he also tries to subvert Cinderella's aspirations by staging an imaginary ball of his own, where – instead of the Prince – she will be able to rub shoulders with down-to-earth citizens from *Dallas*. His dejection seems really heartfelt when this ruse fails to come off.

Some idea of a *Cinderella* for the common man has also rubbed off on Warner Brown's retelling of the story, which shows the Prince (Paul Nicholas) relishing his lowly incognito and falling for the ragged Cinders in the forest well before her transformation into Princess Crystal. There is also one extremely effective duet where Buttons and the Prince sink their rivalry in a song of friendship.

On the other hand, there is no resisting royalty-struck romance in a show supervised by Anna Neagle's Fairy Godmother, a regally dignified figure slowly raising her wand in the likeness of a white-gloved hand.

So far as the fairy-tale goes, Norman Maen's production is an extremely confused show: as is continuously evident from the contrast between the Emanuels' inexhaustibly glamorous costume and the relentlessly dowdy sets of Hugh Durrant.

The Emanuels score highest in their amazing dresses for the Uglies, who appear variously as walking powder-puffs or lighted wedding cakes, and in hooped skirts that zip open like theatre curtains. Peter Lambert and Willie Ross are thus repeatedly upstaged by their own costumes; and the main comic honours go to Hope and Keen as the Broker's Men, a pair of omnicompetent singers, jugglers, combatants and acrobats who maintain a close comic relationship that survives without words, and, more remarkably, even with the words they do get.

Otherwise, there is some good dancing, some of which – such as a pirouetting line-up of glass-slipper contestants – even advances the story. Sarah Payne's Cinders, however resistible her self-pity, has a voice to match Mr O'Connor's.

Irving Wardle

Concert

Te Kanawa/ Philharmonia/Davis
Barbican

You will not have got your tickets torn by Father Christmas; and you will not have been played in by the Salvation Army band. You will not have been given a Christmas card from the sponsors, nor sneaked a glimpse of Kiri's Rolls-Royce. But if you turned your television to BBC2 at 7.30pm yesterday, you might well have got what I missed as I ran through the streets of Clerkenwell to bring you this preview of *Kiri Te Kanawa at Christmas*: a vapour-trail of carols floating into the night sky, as the house-lights dimmed and the ones among the poinsettias twinkled.

It *was* like that: it had to be. Kiri changed her frock halfway through; Carl Davis, whom it was good to see as well as to hear for once, premiered his ditty "The Most Wonderful Birthday of All" ("... is the birthday that brings us together"); and even the earnest faces of the Tallis Chamber Choir twitched a muscle or two during "White Christmas".

The Morton Gould *Serenade of Carols*, a favourite of Davis from his New York boyhood, was worth watching out for. If you got settled with the mulled wine during Mozart's sugared-almond arrangement of the *Messiah* Pastoral Symphony, you could sit back and enjoy a sharp little four-movement piece for double string quartet, woodwind, brass and harps. The carols ripple out from the subconscious memory (but what *is* the one just before "God rest ye merry"?).

Kiri's "Laudate Dominum" from Mozart's Vespers was dispatched almost as breathlessly as the Bright Seraphim; a pity, because half the joy of her vocalise is its ornaments and cadences, both of which were jostled along rather impatiently. The Philharmonia seemed to enjoy their preview of Kiri's 1986 Christmas album, a set of carols in the styles of . . . well, that I'll leave you to guess.

Hilary Finch

Television: Nicholas Shakespeare meets **Alan Plater**, whose *Coming Through* is shown on ITV tonight, and Celia Brayfield reviews her pick of the Christmas holiday programmes

Demonic drive

Photograph of Alan Plater by John Manning



Last September that granity *working-class playwright* Alan Plater left his wife and his native Hull and ran away to London. "To find true love", adds Shirley, the social worker whom he ran away for. His street credibility may have taken a nosedive since he moved with her into Eton Hall, Eton College Road, but not his career. "It's been a lovely year", he agrees.

Sitting on a sofa in his semi-furnished flat, he has a monkish look about him – also, sometimes, the look of a monkey. *Bashfully he recites the list* – his television series and novel *The Beiderbecke Affair*, his marvellous dramatization of Edward Lear, *On the Edge of the Sand*, his Miss Marple, the screen version of his stage play *On Your Way, Riley!*, his Royal Television Society Writer's Award, his Doctorate of Letters from Hull ("a nice distinction to share with Philip [Larkin]"), his jazz opera *Prez*, the revival of his feature film *Priest of Love*, and finally another work inspired by D. H. Lawrence, *Coming Through*, showing on ITV tonight.

"He won't lie down", says Plater, referring not to his red setter Duke – named after Ellington – but Lawrence. It is his third bite at the man. His first, the screenplay for *The Virgin and the Gypsy*, effectively launched his career. "For any regional writer with even token working-class roots, this is the man who set out the ground-rules. He sank a pit-shaft into areas of human experience. People like me just chip away at the seams he revealed."

When Central Television asked for a play to celebrate Lawrence's centenary, Plater decided to home in on his early life in Nottingham. "There was only one problem about a straight bio-drama of a young man growing up in the North. Lawrence had done it himself in *Sons and Lovers*." Plater settled instead for the crucial period of his love-affair with Frieda. "When they met he was 27, she was 32, married, an aristocrat with three children. Within a month she leaves with him for Europe. This is Edwardian England", Plater emphasizes. The heavy lines under his eyes suggest he might once have opened them too wide. "I wanted to demolish the myth that Lawrence is a miserable, brooding, introspective loony. Worldly women don't run away with someone like that."

In *Coming Through*, Plater attempts to make us see the relevance of Lawrence in 1985. He also tries to restore some truth to the cliché of someone whose name is synonymous with permissiveness. The method he uses is to interweave the romance of Lawrence and Frieda with the modern tale of Kate, a mature Open University student who is studying the master. One weekend in Nottingham, searching for his secret soul among the library books, she meets a soi-disant expert and predator called David. David stands for all that is wrong with our interpretation of Lawrence.

The parallel tale is a strange, even brave format. *Coming Through* is probably not the play that Plater will be remembered for, but he was attracted by the risk. "I've got this ground-rule. If in doubt, head for the nearest precipice."

In adapting other people's work and other people's lives – from Orwell to Trollope – Plater is attracted by anyone "who draws pictures, writes words down, amuses people". He will not touch his absolute heroes, though: Duke Ellington, James Thurber and the cartoonist Saul Steinberg. He admires Steinberg because he trained as an architect, "like Hardy, John Arden, Dario Fo" – and Plater himself, who studied, fitfully, at Newcastle in the 1950s. One or two shop-fronts in Hull and *nine houses testify to the fact he* was right to quit, though he has laid out the plans for the Eton Hall flat. "I didn't have a single new idea. Whatever kind of imagination I've got needs more than three dimensions." The architectural training was useful. It taught him structure and it taught him, in the use of story-boards, to "write pictures".

Since 1961, "excited by the blank sheet", he has written over 200 pictures – from *Z Cars*, where he gained his shop-floor experience, to that key political play *Close the Coal-house Door* and the *Barchester Chronicles*. His facility with words on and off the page is legend. "That silver-tongued bastard" is how one ITV head of drama describes him, and Plater acknowledges that after 25 years "you get a full set of muscles" – muscles which enabled him to invent two Edward Lear limericks and a Trollope sermon without anyone noticing. He writes fast. "Ideally I like to write at the same speed it plays. Sometimes I get quite close. I have a lot of preparation. Then I dive in and leave it to the demon."

It is a very Lawrentian word. Plater looks amused. "It was like living with two men, wasn't it, love?" He smiles across at Shirley, who has taken control of the dog. "I thought if I grew a beard it would come out ginger." Shirley reminds him of another story. He pretends to have forgotten. Then reluctantly he tells it. "I was going back to Hull on a train two years ago. I was writing to you. A man leant across and said 'Excuse me, I've now seen Lawrence's demon'."

Partnerships of perfection

Seasonal goodwill pervaded the scant quota of original television programmes sandwiched between feature films over the holiday; superlatives lay round about, deep, crisp and evenly applied to such disparate worthies as Orson Welles, Arthur Daley, Joan Collins and Roland Rat.

Fonteyn and Nureyev: The Perfect Partnership (Channel 4, Christmas Day) put its case most strongly. The 17-year association of Dame Margot Fonteyn with Rudolf Nureyev, which began shortly after his defection from Russia and ended with her retirement in 1979, was variously described as affecting ballet audiences like an earthquake, a pop concert or Maria Callas; tribute was paid to Nureyev's whirlwind impact, animal excitement and incandescent presence. The partnership was, said Clement Crisp, an artistic love-affair conducted in public.

Unhappily, there was little evidence to support these memories. Most of the film records of performances were made in the era in which ballet on camera was a matter of two diminutive individuals with indistinct faces shot on acres of prettily-illuminated floor. The film of *Marguerite and Armand* looked like a satire on confectionary commercials. Only a few moments of bootleg film, shot on 8mm from a camera allegedly concealed under an American fan's mink stole, evoked a little of the magic. The programme was very light on biographical background, and was made without the co-operation of the two legendary dancers themselves. Inevitably, it was a disappointment.

The end of another great partnership was celebrated in *Minder on the Orient Express* (ITV, Christmas Day), which was billed as the last thrash of Dennis Waterman, George Cole and the team who have created a new genre of crime comedy with the series *Minder*. There was nothing disappointing about this apotheosis, which neatly twisted Agatha Christie's principles of suspense around the familiar scenario of a scramble for a dead criminal's stash.

All the hallmarks of this particular brand of greatness were displayed to advantage; the plot had a satisfying symmetry, the direction dealt even-handedly with glitz and grime, the throwaway gags were a delight and the minor roles were both acutely written and marvellously performed. Adam Faith was the essence of menace as a professional criminal and Honor Blackman as the bereaved moll looked even younger than Joan Collins, who appeared an hour or so later to tell Des O'Connor (ITV) how turned-on she was by the 6,000-strong crowd gathered to see her inaugurate the West End Christmas lights.

There was a great deal of support for the description of the cricketer Viv Richards as "the greatest modern player we have ever seen" in Boxing Day's documentary *Viv* (Channel 4). This was an almost unrelieved paean of praise but, unlike Peter Batty's Fonteyn-Nureyev documentary, it included interviews with a reasonable quorum of colleagues and commentators and had the benefit of plentiful performance recordings.

There was a perceptible naivety about Viv which was quite un-British; far more acceptable to our notions of what is fitting is the kind of wry superiority with which Terry Wogan dissects the American luxury soap operas. There is a suspicion of too much protest about this stance, but it is a good position from which to be witty, as the special edition of *Wogan* (BBC1) from *Dynasty's* Denver demonstrated.

Over the period of screen festivities the First Noel award for studied innocence must surely go to the celebrated American writer Studs Terkel, who was seen presiding over a nostalgia session entitled *Mel Brooks Hails Sid Caesar* (Channel 4, Christmas Day). This evoked the golden era of American television comedy which saw a weekly 1½-hour live show starring Caesar and written by a think tank including Brooks, Carl Reiner, Neil Simon, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart and many others. "But this was comedy by committee!" Terkel exclaimed, having listened to the assembled jokers attack each other with the smiling savagery unique to the Jewish citizens of New York; "what happens to the egos?". Wisely, his respondents evaded the answer.

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To my son – a letter for life

What should a father tell his son? As Captain Norman Giles prepared to leave Bombay with his regiment for the Burma front on a December night in 1941, he wondered if he would ever return and, if not, what would become of his young son. He decided to write him a letter and in a few pages "compress a father's advice, encouragement and help which would otherwise have been spread over 15 years". He did return from the war, albeit badly wounded, and the letter was forgotten. When Norman Giles died this summer, aged 73, the letter was found by that son, Adrian, as he sorted his father's effects. This "message of love" from a father was always intended to come to the son "over the span of years" and this, in fact, is precisely what it did. . .

My Dear Adrian

If ever you read this letter it will mean that I have gone off to the war and not returned. You are now nearly three and I want you to receive this letter when you are of an age to understand it, say 18. This means that in one or two pages I have to compress the advice, encouragement and help which would otherwise have been spread over 15 years. Because this advice is so compressed and general, do not ignore it on that account. I assure you that it is the result of bitter experience and anguish and even if you do not accept it, I want you to think over it and find jolly good reasons for not following it.

My first and paramount piece of advice is 'Know thyself'. This does not mean that you are to remain in a state of introspective meditation all day. On the contrary, the only way to know oneself is to mix with others. If you find that you are becoming introspective and solitary snap out of it quick. Get a job or do something that will force you into contact with others. The man who is introspective and solitary stands least chance of all of understanding himself. On the contrary, he will be always looking through his own grievance-tinged mind.

The question of mixing with people is not easy. You want to be able to go with anyone of whatever class or age and leave an impression such as "What a nice boy!" "A good chap, Giles" and so on. You cannot and should not hope to please everyone, but if you find that you get on badly with people, examine yourself and your technique very closely. Perhaps you have acquired an inferiority complex which makes you approach people with a sense of hostile fear. This will be speedily reciprocated. You must try to love people and then you will find that understanding speedily follows. Good manners are a great help. Sincere good manners, that is. You will find them a frequent help when you are feeling shy or self-conscious. Good manners are but disciplined consideration for others according to the social customs of the age. Where manners are merely the habits of a particular set, they become affectation and will do you infinite harm.

Getting on with people is more important than brains, but actually is a particular application of brains. No matter what the job – doctor, soldier, lawyer, business man – if you cannot get on with people you will never get on at all, however brilliant you are.

I have seen so many cases of brilliant people who, because of tactless conduct, have got nowhere. Getting on with people means moreover that you understand them and that like a shepherd or a horseman, you can lead them where you want precisely because you understand them. At school, you will acquire great respect for books. Because a thing is written in a book, it must be right you will think. In the world people have their own ideas, based on experience and they are not moved by a fine piece of logic but by example and character. Reflect a minute, who formed our ideas of the right and wrong thing to do at school – "The Confessions of St Augustine", your schoolmaster or your pals. The third mainly, the second indirectly but the first not until you are 10 years older.

I mentioned a piece of current jargon just now – "Inferiority Complex". It is the root of many evils and its real name is "Fear". Fear blinds people and causes them to act in anger, to be cruel and to hate. And it is so unnecessary. There is nothing to fear. There are forces of nature such as fire and water. One has to take precautions with them because they are more powerful than we. Certain animals are stronger than we, blind machinery too, but must we walk about in fear? No, fear is the mark of the primitive man and the thinking man must be free from it.

The first step in the conquest of fear is physical fitness. Over-wrought nerves make dangers worse than they are. Following on physical fitness is conscious thought, the analysis of fears so as to destroy them, knowing oneself. You may have to go through danger many times, but regard it as a joy and a thrill consciously doing and carefully doing what you can, in face of grave risk. Many become numb and stiff with fear. Their muscles are OK but their mind is not.

Learn to play as many games as you can. They make you fit and give you confidence. They also help you to mix. Play in a football team with a chap and he's your friend, far more so than if you had argued with him for half a day over French Romantic Literature in the 18th century. That does not mean that reading is a waste of time. When you are young is your only chance to read as many of the greatest books as you can. After that you may be able to keep in touch, but your main effort will be utilitarian. Views of life based on books are fit for the dustbin but books, properly used, are friends and the products of great minds.

So, you have struggled, you are reasonably fit, active, you have some favourite authors and you have many acquaintances and some friends. You know your limitations, your weaknesses, your capabilities and, more important, you understand those of others. This will give you confidence, not bumptiousness, and place you on a rock. Others will not be able to call your bluff but you will be able to call theirs.

I am chary of giving you advice on personal matters – I refer to religion and your relations with women. A little may help you. Perhaps you are worried about religion. One thing is certain above all others – by worrying you will not force a revelation. Every religion ever known thrived on kindly acts. Whilst waiting for that revelation of faith which must come some day, work within the framework of an existing church and continue with your kindly acts.

If you find a burning need to found or search for a new religion, carefully analyse your mind. So many Messiahs of a new age or new religion project wish-fulfilment into their fantasies, hoping for a new order of brotherliness and love. The real reason is that they are miserable, solitary and alone and their preaching is the expression of their longing. Read the Bible. Not only is it a model of prose which will help you to speak and write, but it is a history of a people in search of truth.

You have probably realized by now that relations with women are an important factor in life. These are my views, not those of my time. If your mind is free and not obsessed, it is not necessary to have any relations with women until you are married, despite what the pundits say. Many men like to go with women to make conquests. That is a mild perversion, but it is an exemplification of the rule that in matters of sex, mind is 90 per cent and matter is 10 per cent. If your mind is clear and untroubled, you can wait for the odd 10 per cent.

If, as will be doubtful in the future, you feel shy and ignorant about sex and your ignorance is abysmal, for God's sake have an affair or two and get your ideas sorted out. But if you have followed my dictum "Know thyself", it will be unnecessary. It is all nonsense that experience is vitally necessary. Sex is the most difficult thing in the world to advise about, and moral taboos are the most frequently broken. I do not want any standard of conduct from you but a clear mind. Do not indulge in sexual relations because you are feeling miserable but for a right reason, because you love or think you love someone else.

That is all. It has been long-winded and involved and unfortunately it is incomplete. I cannot support my arguments, I cannot clarify any statement which does not seem clear to you. Just think it over and since it is your own life you are leading, you must be guided by your own fights. I like to think now that you will ponder over what I have written. I have tried to avoid the sentimental and I have not attempted to do anything else but make you think for yourself. Pardon me if this letter has been dull or even brutally practical. It has been written for you out of love and a desire to help and is indeed coming from over the span of years, a message of love from

Your Father

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Family devotion: Adrian Giles with his parents at his christening in Bombay, 1941 . . .



. . . and admiring his father's Burma medals with his own son, Thomas, aged six

STORY OF A GENERATION

Norman Giles was born in 1912, the son of A. G. Giles formerly chief accountant of the British Bank of South America. He was educated at Highgate School and King's College, Cambridge. When his father lost his job and money during the Depression, Norman Giles was forced to come down from Cambridge. He supported himself with a succession of jobs – tourist courier, insurance clerk and farm labourer among them – before returning to King's in 1933 on a county scholarship. However, it took him another five years to repay the debts he had incurred at Cambridge. He later wrote: "The experience was traumatic and gave me a sense of insecurity which was only dispelled after many years". During the war he was a captain in the Royal Artillery serving with the 1st Indian Field Regiment. He was seriously wounded in the battle building up to Kohima and never fully recovered from his wounds.

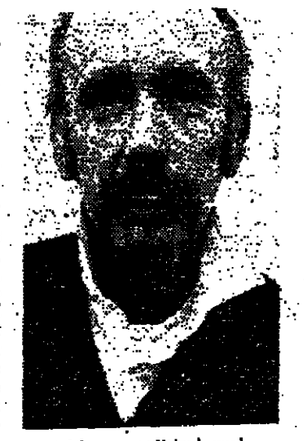
After the war he stood unsuccessfully as Conservative candidate for Smethwick in the general election before first pursuing a career as a management consultant. He was married twice and had four sons and a daughter by his first marriage.

Norman Giles died on July 2 this year in The Hague where he had been working as a translator of medieval texts at Leiden University.

Adrian Giles, aged 46, is a company director and lives in Cobham, Surrey. He is married with a son and two daughters.

Portrait of the artist as a resident exile

Conrad Atkinson is a phenomenon: a British community artist who relies on America for cash and caring



Atkinson: political work

Conrad Atkinson is back in his chilly south London studio, after having, in his own words, "swanned" across the pond to New York for the opening of his exhibition there. As the current artist in residence for Lewisham, he has created an entirely new species: the community artist dependent both psychologically and financially on America.

Enthroned in a flower-power basket chair and constantly quoting John Lennon, the 45-year-old artist makes no secret of his double life. In Lewisham, where he has worked for nearly two years, life could not be more down to earth. Indeed he could well be renamed Comrade Atkinson, as he makes his way anonymously through the crowds emerging from the grey shopping precinct beside his Molesworth Street studio.

Judging from the prices of his works at the Feldman Gallery in New York, the inhabitants of Lewisham might be forgiven for thinking he is taking them for a ride. One work, "The Sleep of Reason", seen hanging recently at the borough's Ladywell Baths, is now priced at over $15,000 – about twice what Atkinson earns in London a year.

The Atkinson phenomenon is not so much a matter of cashing in on our system and marketing British poverty as using the relative wealth and enlightenment of the States to subsidize his life's work. "All the problems I'm interested in are about people living in a deprived urban setting", he says, adding that, because his work is political, it tends to be dismissed in this country.

Although his work is collected by the Tate Gallery and the Victoria & Albert, he says: "I can't imagine a private dealer putting on a show of my work over here. I am an exile in my own country."

In New York, the market is different. Well established and with both Warhol and Beuys on its books, the Feldman gallery has a policy to show works which it likes, without trying to calculate its potential saleability.

The New York show, "Goldfish", takes the consumer society as its theme. "We don't only consume, we are consumed by our objects", says Atkinson. "As unemployment rises and new technology starts to bite, people are increasingly alienated, watching from outside. These works acknowledge they are being looked at, like goldfish, but there is also the chance they are looking back at you."

What gives Atkinson's work its authenticity is his strong sense of background. Brought up in a mining village in Cumbria, he is distressed by today's unemployment there. One of his projects is the designing of a "Monument to the Miners" of Cleator Moor. His work in Lewisham is not just a matter of treating the borough as a goldfish bowl; up to 75 per cent of his time is dedicated to projects for which there is no financial reward.

To an outsider, these projects sound like a series of bureaucratic farces. His "Peace Pavement" idea seemed simple enough when first conceived: a walkway with messages of peace in the many languages of the borough's inhabitants.

Over a year later, however, the work is still unfinished. Atkinson has coaxed it through the ethnic committee to check the spelling and the women's committee to vet the wording for sexism. "We just got permission passed when some one suggested people might trip up on the words so we had to make them flush with lead."

Atkinson's major victory has been to launch the Lewisham Percentage for Art scheme. Having discovered that most western countries devote one per cent of their budget for publicly-funded buildings towards the arts, Atkinson decided to campaign for it here.

'We are consumed by our objects'

"Our architects are incredibly badly educated", he says. "They know the economics, but when it comes to the aesthetics, they find what they call a 'feature' and just stick in on the front." Quoting John Lennon, he adds: "I'm sick of the people with no taste dictating everyone else's taste."

The Percentage for Art scheme is catching on. Last month an exhibition opened at the offices of Levitt Bernstein Associates, architects based at the Oval, to promote "greater involvement of artists in architectural projects". Recently the Lewisham planning committee approached Atkinson asking his advice on how to improve the appearance of the ugly shopping precinct opposite his studio. He suggested an English landscape in neon lights, "high up to avoid vandalism".

We are watching art history being made. During the Renaissance, artists were entirely at the command of their patrons; in recent decades they shunned such control and became their own masters. Now Conrad Atkinson has established a brand new formula for the 21st century in which both are combined.

Sarah Jane Checkland

Sanderson Sale
Dec. 28th – Jan. 11th
Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm. Saturday 9.00am-5.30pm
Fabrics, wallpapers (incl. handprints), bedlinen.
Display items from roomsets.
Upholstery, cabinet furniture and lighting.
All at special prices.
Sanderson, Berners St., London W1
Car Park, Coffee Shop
Oxford Circus or Tottenham Court Road Tube Stations.

MULTIYORK SALE STARTS DEC. 27th
30%-40% OFF OUR AUTUMN DISPLAY STOCK
ALL WITH TOTALLY REMOVABLE COVERS
NO POLYURETHANE FOAM

To clear our showrooms we are offering display stock at a massive 30% - 40% off. But hurry in for the best choice!
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Handmade in Suffolk
MADE IN OUR OWN SUFFOLK WORKSHOPS AND SOLD DIRECT TO YOU (AND THROUGH OUR SHOWROOMS AT 25 THURLOE PLACE, LONDON SW7 (01-589 2368), 4 CARDEN ROAD, LONDON NW1 (01-485 2628), 2 CASTLE MEADOW, NORWICH (0603 660456), THE OLD MILL, MELLIS, EYE, SUFFOLK — FREE PARKING (1095 983 453), 1 MILTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE (FREE PARKING) (0223 353465), 805 HIGH ROAD, LOUGHTON, ESSEX (01-502 4123). OPEN SUNDAYS EXCEPT NORWICH

A plague of firebugs on the farm

Arson attacks on bulging barns have become a common hazard of country life, as Alan Hamilton reports



Barn blaze at Little Almshoe, earlier this month

The effect is better than any fireworks display: an intense white blaze topped by a roaring chimney of dancing sparks that light the countryside for miles around. The chances of detection are probably less, and the danger to life undoubtedly less, than setting fire to a house in Handsworth or Tottenham.

Arson in the inner cities makes headlines but fire-raising on farms is a common feature of country life. Dutch barns stacked to the roof with dry, highly combustible straw are a favourite target, particularly in the autumn when they are likely to be full.

There has been an intensive outbreak in recent months in the Hitchin area of north Hertfordshire. Last September police set up a special incident room at Letchworth police station and put a team of detectives on a full-time investigation of 16 major farm fires, all being treated as malicious, which have caused damage estimated at £250,000.

An anonymous donor has offered a £1,000 reward for information on the fires, but other, smaller outbreaks have also been reported during the autumn in Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Shropshire.

Police traced the start of the Hertfordshire outbreak to last May, when a blaze at Highover Farm, on the edge of Hitchin, destroyed a Dutch barn and a tractor together worth £25,000. As summer turned to autumn, and the barns in this rich, grain-growing corner of the Home Counties began to fill, the number of fires, all within a small area of the county, increased dramatically.

The last was only two weeks ago, barely three miles from the first at the hamlet of Little Almshoe.

Much of North Hertfordshire's farmland is owned by the Pilkington and Bowes-Lyon families, but the fires have not been confined to the property of any one landowner, and police have ruled out a grudge against an individual. But Detective Chief Inspector Tony Cropper, in charge of the investigation, says that the great majority appear to be linked to a common offender.

In an average year firemen are called to some 3,500 blazes at farm buildings. Not all are malicious, but figures provided by the Fire Protection Association and by NFU Mutual, the leading farmers' insurance company, show that arson or suspected arson vies with electrical faults as the major cause of farm fires, each accounting for about 20 per cent of the total.

There are, however, no statistics which prove conclusively that farm arson is on the increase, whereas chief fire officers say that arson at industrial premises is rising – a by-product of the recession which drives hard-pressed businessmen to fraudulent insurance claims.

Setting fire to a barn is an attractive proposition for the fire-raiser as access to the building is easy, the danger of detection slight and its remoteness ensures that the fire will cause little danger to life.

Police and fire officers believe that agricultural arsonists fall into three main categories: farmers seeking insurance money, country dwellers with a grudge against farmers, and genuine arsonists who derive a thrill from the flames.

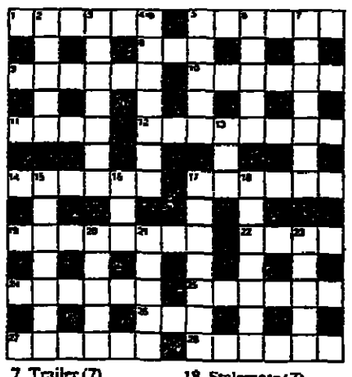
At the scene of a blaze police are always interested in who raised the alarm, and who appear to be the most enthusiastic fire-fighters. They will also check recent changes in fire brigade personnel, particularly the part-timers, and will want to question any new recruits. It is not unknown for a part-time fireman to start a blaze just to get some fighting practice.

Pathological fire-raisers form a small proportion of the total number, but their enthusiasm can lead to a disproportionate amount of damage.

Professor John Gunn, of the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, says: "The firebug is a special problem. He derives an intense excitement from fire which is almost, but not necessarily, erotic. The pleasure is not in seeing people killed but an intense and unnatural delight in the fire itself. I have a patient who set fire to 15 premises in one week."

Farms are the ideal setting for the firebug, but the countryside is also a land of hatreds and vendettas, irritations between neighbours, and enormous temptation.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 834)



ACROSS
1 Constraint (6)
5 Business room (6)
8 Heavy lorry sign (1,1,1)
9 Cheek dent (6)
10 Thyroid swelling (6)
11 Burden (4)
12 Vindictive (8)
14 Ice cream dessert (6)
17 Thin (6)
19 Plant pot container (8)
22 Whiteish (4)
24 Film theatre (6)
25 Undertake (6)
26 Woody fruit (3)
27 Board craft (6)
28 They go out (6)

DOWN
2 Amalgamation (5)
3 Uncovered (7)
4 Spire (7)
5 Church instrument (5)
6 Fob off (5)
7 Trailer (7)
13 Writing fluid (3)
15 Nuclear energy source (7)
16 Imitate (3)
17 Overfill (7)
18 Stalemate (7)
20 Doglike mammal (5)
21 Timber length (5)
23 Plant cell cavity (5)

SOLUTION TO No 833
ACROSS: 1 Church 5 Perk 8 Acrid 9 Rainbow 11 Complain 13 Also 15 Excommunicate 17 Elan 18 Strength 21 Secular 22 Frail 23 Glue 24 Larder
DOWN: 2 Harem 3 Rid 4 Horticultural 5 Prim 6 Rubella 7 Gaucheness 10 Wookey Hole 12 Lamp 14 Gibe 16 Chancel 19 Grave 20 Clue 22 Fur

THE TIMES
SATURDAY
The weekend starts here

The pool at Ragdale Hall, Leicestershire.
The best of health
Britain's health farms suffer from a "St Trinian's" image, suggesting high jinks in the Jacuzzi and breakouts to the village for tea and cream-cakes. The Times checked out five of the best for their ability to remove the stresses of modern life as well as the notes from your wallet.
Up the Zambezi . . . by canoe
Yes Prime Minister New face at No 10
Portfolio £22,000 to be won
Can you always get your copy of The Times?
Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times
NAME
ADDRESS

Time to stop the torment

The recent series on schizophrenia prompted many touching accounts from readers of their own experience of this neglected illness

TALKBACK

From S. Johnson, London SW1.
I have three children. They were all normal healthy babies. Two have grown up to hold responsible jobs, but one suffers from schizophrenia. She first showed signs of it in her early teens. By the time she was 19, although beautiful and intelligent, she gradually sank into a deep depression and began to live a solitary existence.

She dispensed with her friends, dressed herself in black and refused to eat meals with the family. She kept to her room, read her textbooks without comprehension, stayed awake most of the night and slept most of the day. She never smiled.

Unable to continue at university, she spoke to no one and began to lose touch with reality. We took her to our GP, who advised us to let well alone. Months later, we took her to a Harley Street psychiatrist, who tried to "talk" her out of her illness. The following year we took her to another GP, who told us that she could not be admitted to hospital until she became a danger to either herself or to others.

We were frightened for her life. She became more and more hallucinated until eventually she was almost run over in heavy traffic while fleeing from an imaginary assailant. Then the police drove her to a psychiatric hospital where at long last she was given medical treatment for this living nightmare.

Public awareness of the fact that one out of every hundred of the population suffers from this illness will bring forth a clamour for research into its causes and eventual cure. A great deal of money has been raised for research into the various forms of cancer, and heartening results have been achieved. Likewise, money must be raised for research into schizophrenia.

Wasted years

From J. M. Pringle (Mrs), Surbiton, Surrey.
In 1970 *The Times* published an article by my late husband, John Pringle, about the appalling difficulties that lay in the path of sufferers from schizophrenia.

As a direct result of the astonishing response by your readers to that article, my husband was able to set up the National Schizophrenia Fellowship. The graphic report by Marjorie Wallace shows, however, that, despite all our efforts, the sad tales are the same as they were 15 years ago; indeed, the situation is made even worse by the rundown of hospitals. Will our legislators never learn? Are they content to hear of suicides, of elderly parents breaking under the strain, of the downward path almost inevitably trodden by a discharged schizophrenic with no settled shelter to go to?

Distressing side-effects

From Dorothy N. Thomson, Agnew Terrace, Edinburgh.
I should just like to say how much your major articles on schizophrenia are appreciated.

I have been a sufferer for 10 years. I am possibly one of the lucky ones, having had only one relapse, two years ago, when in consultation with my psychiatrist, it was tried to get me "off" medication. However, it would appear that I shall have to take medication for the rest of my life.

This in itself is not too much of an inconvenience. The worrying thing (for me at any rate) is the prospect of increasing side-effects as I grow older. The term for this is *tardive dyskinesia*, to which a programme was devoted recently on television. Unfortunately, although Depixol, Medecate or similar drugs render one "sensible", in the process one becomes aware of these side-effects – trembling, restlessness or spasmodic mouth movements. This can be as distressing as the illness itself.

Your article points out quite rightly that a person in the full throes of an attack often does not realize his own condition. Awareness of these side-effects (in my case and I am sure in many others) results in a feeling of freakishness and loss of confidence.

Caring policy

From Patrick Campbell, Chairman, Friern Hospital Medical Committee and others, Friern Hospital, Friern Barnet Road, London N11.
In the second of her articles, Marjorie Wallace quoted the mother of a patient, whose body was found in a river, as being told that Friern Hospital has a policy *not* "to retain people who were unlikely to improve". This error deserves correction in case Ms Wallace's otherwise excellent articles add further to the anxieties of relatives of patients cared for at Friern. There is not now, and there never has been, such a hospital policy.

Serious misgivings

From Ian Gordon, Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire.
As the father of a young man who committed suicide while on weekend leave from the psychiatric wing of the local general hospital, where he was being treated for schizophrenia, I have grave misgivings about the current state of psychiatric medicine, even when this is being applied in a controlled environment.

When we had earlier questioned the extremely high dosage of drugs being prescribed for my son, we were told bluntly by the psychiatrist that the dosage was necessary to prevent his killing himself. However, neither the fact that my son had twice attempted suicide while in the care of the hospital, nor the fact that he had been deeply depressed during the previous week, apparently caused the medical staff any compunction about allowing him home in our care for the ill-fated weekend.

I understand that one of the factors in support of the policy of returning patients who are seriously disturbed mentally to community care is the bland assurance of the psychiatric profession that patients' behaviour can now be adequately controlled by drugs.

In my experience of the way my son's condition deteriorated while under drug therapy, confidence in the skills of modern psychiatric medicine is patently misplaced.

Scandal of our time

From Graham Hough, The White Cottage, Grantchester, Cambridge.
Your articles, though valuable, were incorrectly described. They were not specifically about schizophrenia, but about the wider problem of the treatment of mental patients in general.

Surely the situation revealed is one of the grossest scandals of our time.

The phrase "cared for in the community" is the flattest piece of hypocrisy of which even recent governments have been guilty; it simply means not cared for at all.

The tragedy of schizophrenia: how the law has left sufferers to decide their own future

A patient's cry – can nobody help?



The forgotten illness

In the last of the three-part series on schizophrenia, Marjorie Wallace looks at the implications of the 1983 Mental Health Act and the effect it had on one man's life



THE LEGAL POSITION

WHERE TO FIND HELP

From the fringe to centre stage

Women get a raw deal from the theatre, but a trust chaired by Lady Harlech aims to change all that. Julia Pascal reports

The Christmas pantomime at London's Old Vic theatre this year is no ordinary pantomime. For Louise Page's version of *Beauty and the Beast* is the third production of the Women's *Playhouse Trust*, which was formed five years ago by women who were frustrated at being denied equal access to the subsidized stage.

The chair of the trust is taken by Lady Harlech. "I was asked to get involved", she says, "and I thought, yes, it's about time women got more space and I don't just mean acting. As far as I can see, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre are just not interested in women's work. Sir Peter Hall's excuse is that there aren't any good women directors but, judging from what I've seen at the NT, hardly any of the men there can direct either. The position both at the NT and at the RSC is just horrific and I don't think those men can be allowed to lie back and get away with it."

The trust's aim is to buy a West End theatre as a home for women's work: 15 years of being in a fringe theatre ghetto has led to a desire for larger spaces. Lady Harlech is American and outspoken (and the widow of Lord Harlech). She is also a fearless fund-raiser: "I try to hook in people who might support us. I'm getting to the point where people are frightened to sit next to me at dinner."

Lady Harlech seems to know anybody who is anybody. She was features editor for *Vogue* in New York and London during the late 1960s and 1970s and she is famous for her cookery books.



Steve Lovi

Lady Harlech: a fearless fund-raiser

She also has a huge entrepreneurial spirit and believes in self-reliance. Last Christmas she produced *Mother Goose* at the Old Vic for a one-night funding event in aid of the Theatre Museum, and paired Sir John Gielgud with Elton John in a dance duet of "Me and My Shadow". "They both loved that", she says.

Lady Harlech is on several other committees, most notably the South Bank Board which takes over the Waterloo arts complex when the GLC is abolished. But for the moment she is concentrating all her energies on the WPT. "What I find depressing when I approach most businessmen is that I have to explain that we're not a bunch of men-haters. I have to tell them that we're not going to eat them for breakfast and then I have to get them to understand that I represent a group whose aim is to produce serious work.

"The problem is that women can't get into the RSC or NT because they're criticized for not having enough experience. But if they can't get in there on those big stages, how can they get that experience? What we want to do is to give them a solid background and offer them a showcase." She also works with the GLC and the Arts Council: "Michael Birkett of the GLC is our greatest ally and William Rees-Mogg of the Arts Council is very keen on the Women's Playhouse Trust".

The only woman so far to have been allowed a full-scale production on a main stage at the NT is Nancy Meckler who directed Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at the Lyttelton in 1981. No woman has ever directed a Shakespeare on either of the RSC's main stages at Stratford or the Barbican.

Three years ago, the Conference of Women Theatre Directors and Administrators published research into female employment within the theatre. It revealed that the majority of women were concentrated in the service areas as secretaries, publicists, caterers, casting directors and assistants. Now the conference is pressing the Arts Council and the Regional Arts Associations to ensure that their clients institute an equal opportunities policy.

Trevor Nunn, defending himself against accusations of male domination at directorial level, says: "I made Buzz Goodbody an associate director" but, since her suicide in 1974, no other woman has filled this role. He also speaks of how "a few months ago I tried to set up a Shakespeare Women's Year in Stratford. I failed. But I will succeed in a year or two from now".

A Shakespeare Women's Year may appear to redress the balance but it is merely a token gesture: women want to be integrated on equal terms into all levels of employment, not fobbed off with special events. Ironically, it was the commercial theatre which allowed the most space to women directors when it gave West End productions earlier this year to Maria Aitken and Julia McKenzie.

But what about the financial problems of taking on a West End enterprise? The subsidized theatre can cushion failures like Sir Peter Hall's *Seberg* with taxpayers' money. But West End managements cannot afford this luxury and Lady Harlech agrees: "Of course it's a risk but, if planned properly, we've got as good a chance as anybody else."

So why is she devoting so much of her time to this large-scale project? "I believe that if you come from a privileged background, you have a duty to give some of it back."

Louise Page's *Beauty and the Beast* is at the Old Vic until Jan 25. The text is published by Methuen, £2.95.

Where the rising son pays dearly for wedded bliss

Japanese couples often spend an entire year's salary on their marriage celebrations. David Watts reports



Swinging down in a gondola through a cloud of dry ice, as if in some unforgettably bad film, a young Japanese couple approach the high point of their wedding.

Alighting among their guests in a Tokyo hotel, a spotlight picks them out in the darkened room as they walk round to light candles at each guest table, at extra cost of course.

Wedding ceremonies in Japan today are a metaphor for the society, a melange of East and West wrapped in an expensively kitsch package and rooted firmly in neither tradition.

In a land where the supreme virtue is to be Mr Average, to vary not an iota from your neighbour, the marriage industry packages an extravagant interlude that puts the individual in the spotlight for a day. Couples who cannot even afford a deposit on a tiny flat lay out an average of a year's salary on a corporate "coming out".

Wedding halls do express business at the most auspicious times of the year, "processing" a couple every 15 or 20 minutes, video coverage and the candle ceremony extra. Many couples inwardly rebel against the waste but the cult of *me-too-ism* stifles all but the most outlandishly un-Japanese.

Ridiculous or not, the obligations of life in Japan take over

The genre was taken to its heights last summer with the marriage of a young female pop singer. Seiko Matsuda is the latest in the seemingly endless supply of pretty young Japanese singers whose every song goes to number one. Her marriage to Masaki Kanda, a darkly handsome actor, produced some staggering statistics. The wedding cake cost 10 million yen (£35,000), her dresses and kimonos ten times that. Food for the wedding reception cost £133 per head and drink about £66. The total cost was 200 million yen (£700,000).

Atsuo Ishihara's ambitions for his wedding to Nobuko Aikawa were much more modest. He set out wanting a small, quiet ceremony. He's a good-looking fresh-faced young man with the unworldly naivety of many young Japanese. His favourite pastime is choral singing.

Although he works for one of Japan's largest and best-known trading companies, he held back from marrying his fiancée for some time because of the difficulty of financing himself and a wife. She has to help with her father's small soya sauce company, a family obligation which brings with it no salary.

Mr Ishihara took a trip to the typical apartments available to young marrieds in Tokyo and didn't like what he saw: "Great tower blocks with factories all around. You really feel the pressure there. I was really scared to see this monotonous scene."

Even for an exceedingly modest "mansion", the Japanese euphemism for a small flat in an apartment block, the going price is 20 million yen (£70,000).

He would rather have put the money spent on the wedding ceremony into something more long-lasting. Even a relatively simple affair at the industrial club of Japan, cost 4.5 million yen (£15,600) for 140 guests. "It's really ridiculous, I told my father." But ridiculous or not the obligations of life in Japan take over.

Every Japanese is born with obligations, debts owing, primarily to parents, and this is time that a son has to repay some of them. "It's really important. There are so many people thinking of me and taking the trouble to send gifts. So I must prepare everything perfectly. It's like getting ready for a concert."

For Mr Ishihara, and thousands of young men like him, the wedding ceremony is an important rite of passage, probably more so than for their counterparts in the West. Paying back what he owes to society and the family becomes possible once he has become a fully fledged member of that society. At the ceremony he becomes a *shakaijin*, a full and responsible member of society.

"I'm presenting myself to people through the ceremony and the party afterwards. The process of preparation is a kind of test of whether or not I can be a *shakaijin*.

The service itself is a melange of eastern and western influences: the room is of virgin pine, laid out rather like the choir of an English church but with Buddhist and Shinto good-luck symbols. He was dressed in a tuxedo and she wore a long white dress.

Mr Ishihara did allow his father to pay for the honeymoon

The ceremony usually starts with both bride and groom in formal Japanese wear, the bride with the lacquered hair of a geisha shrouded by a white hood which symbolizes her efforts to conceal her "horns" of jealousy. The husband wears a black kimono. Many brides change from the formal kimono to a western-style white wedding dress and then to a cocktail dress for at least part of the reception before they take their leave to join a package group to either Hawaii or Guam.

Some couples now escape the rigours of the formal ceremony in Japan and take off for Australia, or even Britain, where they can go through a simple ceremony.

Mr Ishihara was unusual in his determination to pay for most of the wedding on his own account and his refusal to borrow money from his father to buy a home, although he did allow him to pay for the honeymoon in London.

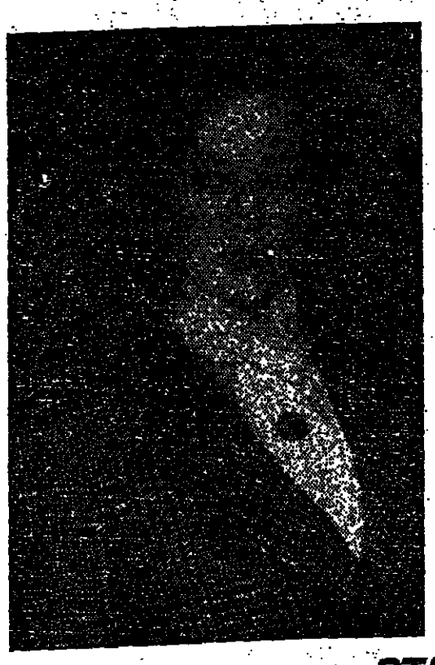
Most couples come down with a thud from the fantasy world of dry ice to the reality of a tiny apartment no bigger than a western living room where they will spend the rest of their lives: no ordinary "salaryman" can hope to make the quantum leap to a house once children come along.

WHAT IT COSTS

There were around 740,000 marriages in 1984 and the average expenses were as follows:

Engagement gifts and related expenses	£2,346
Ceremony, reception and related expenses	£7,093
Gift for ceremonial matchmaker	£363
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Pure Wool Skirts	£75	£45
Pure Wool Cardigans	£55	£35
Cotton Cord Skirts	£55	£29
Stand Collar Blouses	£55	£29

MENS

EXAMPLES	ORIGINAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
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FOOTBALL DIARY

Peter Ball

Watching the flock

Liverpool

Last week's belated signing of a football television contract helped to brighten Christmas for Philip Carter, Everton chairman and a leading figure in the current move to redistribute football's income from poor clubs to rich. Inspector Ted Greenwell, Merseyside police's full-time football officer, is not too sure. "I probably shouldn't say this, but everything is going all right at the moment and I just wonder if the return of television will make things deteriorate again, because the hooligans like the publicity."

The camera surveillance systems installed at Goodison Park and Anfield in Liverpool after the shame of Brussels have proved a major factor in keeping things so quiet this season. There have been only two arrests inside Goodison, and only 23 inside and outside both grounds this season so far.

The sensitive, low-key approach adopted by the police under Greenwell, has undoubtedly also played its part. Yesterday, with no trains running, his main concern was ensuring that the 40 coaches bringing Manchester United supporters to Liverpool got in and out of the city unscathed.

For five years Manchester coach firms refused to go to Liverpool, because of the damage often suffered. The provision of a police escort, however, has ensured that United's last visit, for the Milk Cup match at Anfield in November, was quiet. Only two coaches, who failed to follow police directions, were damaged.

Old scores

It is sometimes easy to overlook the fact, but there are three teams on Merseyside. Yesterday Tranmere Rovers celebrated the 50th anniversary of their own place in the record books, the 13-4 defeat of Oldham Athletic on Boxing Day 1935, which still stands as the highest aggregate of goals in a Football League match.

In the process their centre forward, Robert "Bunny" Bell, set an individual scoring record of nine goals – it was beaten by Joe Payne of Luton with 10 only four months later. Yesterday Bell, a sprightly 74-year-old still living in the Wirral, was presented with the match ball, which had been traced by Peter Bishop, the club's programme editor, a local journalist, who found it lying disregarded in a loft.

A prolific scorer, with 104 goals in 114 games for the club, Bell left Tranmere three months later, moving to Everton as understudy to Tommy Lawton, but the memory still lingers. "I should have had 10, because I hit the bar and missed a penalty", he recalls, but he refutes the old rumours that the Oldham players were drunk. "Like us, they couldn't afford it on less than £4 a week."

Star struck

The Christmas holiday period has often been an unhappy time for Peter Reid, the stocky, combative England midfield player. Seven years ago, on New Year's Day, an injury put him out of the game for a year, and yesterday he was again idle with his leg immobilized following last week's setback as he attempted to come back from the achilles tendon injury which has caused him to be absent most of this season.

Reid has borne these disappointments with typically Liverpudlian resilience, his mocking humour much in evidence. It is, though, a good thing he is not superstitious.

This week *Match Weekly*, a fan magazine more usually devoted to praising players than burying them, decided to do astrological predictions as its contribution to the Christmas festivities.

Reid's best hope for 1986, it seems, will be to stay in bed. According to *Match Weekly*'s tame astrologer, it will be "a make or break" year for Reid, who will be liable to accidents in January and February. After that things briefly look up with the promise that he will be fit for the World Cup, but then the stars foretell that "his career could be in jeopardy", between October 5 and December.

Away day

Other cities have their history, Liverpool has its football. Militant Tendency, unemployment and the city's financial crisis may exercise some minds and tongues, but the overall passion is still the game.

Rivalries still run deep. While Manchester United fans were flocking into the city, Stan Hey, ardent Liverpool fan, *Times* restaurant critic and co-author of *Hold the Back Page*, was moving in the opposition direction.

Even had Liverpool not been so close by, Hey would not have gone to Goodison. He has succumbed to that act of sacrilege only twice – once on Boxing Day eight years ago at my instigation, when Manchester United won 6-1, which failed to provide the expected solace, and more recently for filming. He still feels guilty about both those transgressions, having been brought up in a household where a Liverpool defeat meant that no football pink was bought because reading about it was too painful.

Club rivalries in Liverpool are a complex matter, however, and Hey says that "since the music died, football is the only thing the people have". It does, it seems, serve as a unifying factor, for in spite of the passion for the game the debate is carried on with a humour and mutual understanding which no longer seems true in other cities.

After the Christmas TV surfeit, Neil Postman explains the triumph of the new American colonialism

They came, we saw, they conquered



Every age has its own special forms of imperialism, as does each conqueror. In the 18th and 19th centuries, when the British mastered the art, their method of invasion was to send the navy, then the army, then their administrators and finally their educational system. We Americans now do it differently. We send our television shows.

The method has much to recommend it. There is little resistance, no blood is shed, it is pleasurable and quick. In a few years we shall be able to boast that the sun never sets on an American television show. The method works especially well on those who know little about the western media, such as China. Last year Peking contracted with CBS network for 60 hours of American television shows. Contracts with the other networks, NBC and ABC, are sure to follow. What the Chinese don't know is that their Gang of Four is as nothing compared to our Gang of Three. Given a few years they will turn Peking into Omaha, Nebraska, without a shot being fired.

The Russians have not yet figured out what is happening. When Khrushchev said of the West, "We will bury you", he was thinking in terms of 19th century *realpolitik*. Had he been a more careful student of Marx, he would have remembered that political consciousness is borne on the wings of technology. He might then have grasped that electromagnetic waves penetrate more deeply than armies.

Perhaps Gorbachov understands. But if the Russians keep relying on 19th century forms of imperialism while continuing to make terrible television shows, they may find themselves turning into a Third World country.

One would think that the British would be fully aware of what is happening, but apparently, they are not. Americans send not only our television programmes but our *idea* of television. To be sure, when *Dallas* is watched by millions of Britons, we have a significant case of American imperialism, but far more significant is the result of recent public opinion polls showing that two out of three Britons favour advertising on the BBC rather than a higher licence fee.

The American idea of television is that primarily it will create and serve a nation of consumers rather than citizens and deliver them to the advertisers. Every home must therefore have two or more television sets which have something on them continuously day and night. That something must be immediately accessible to all viewers and must always be alluring. This means that complexity must be eschewed and dynamic visual imagery take precedence over language.

In short, everything shown must be entertaining, not only because entertainment is least likely to offend or alienate any segment of consumers, but also to ensure a minimum of sustained, serious thought. For an audience engaged in serious thought is either not paying enough attention to the commercials or paying too much.

An audience not paying enough attention is useless. An audience paying too much is dangerous. It will wonder what the commercials are doing there, what is so amusing about a cheeseburger or how all problems can be solved by a particular drug or machine. Such an audience may even think the most dangerous thought of all: that there is little difference between the commercials and the programme.

What is required, then, is an audience conditioned to minimal mental activity when watching television; moreover, that the audience remains stupefied when *not* watching television. This can be achieved by packaging all public discourse – politics, education, religion and news – as entertainment.

Serious cultural business is obliterated by the simple expedient of giving it the same form and texture as the 30-second commercial or situation comedy. On American television there is no significant difference between political messages and commercial messages. The editing, the music, the theatrical techniques are the same.

Above all, they use the same characters. That is why Americans do not think it peculiar that Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, does Diet-Pepsi commercials, or that senators and congressmen hawk the virtues of American Express cards. Nor do we find it peculiar that our political figures appear in soap operas. For example, Henry Kissinger and Gerald Ford have taken part in *Dynasty*. Jesse Jackson and George McGovern have hosted the variety show *Saturday Night Live*.

The same principle of trivialising public discourse operates in newscasts. Our TV news readers are the handsomest group of people in America and become as famous as film stars. Because newcasts are packaged as entertainment, Americans do not recoil in outrage when a commercial is placed between a story about an earthquake in Mexico and one about street fighting in Lebanon. Americans do not judge it irreverent when celebrities appear on religious programmes. Educational shows for children emphasize that learning and entertainment are inseparable.

As a corollary to this relentless entertainment, all authentic ideological issues are made to appear trivial, evanescent or merely amusing. People must direct their energies and thoughts to the one thing that counts: the existential pleasures of buying things. American things.

The US exports, worldwide, almost 250,000 hours of programmes, including such favourites as *Dynasty*, *Dallas*, *Sesame Street*, and *Miami Vice*. The content is designed to make the world think America attractive: the *form* is designed to make the world look, feel, respond and *buy* like Americans. We hope to entice the infidels to give up their native culture, diversity, point of view, heroes and values.

China, as noted, has shown a willingness to begin the process. In Latin America, the process is well advanced. Canada has been where we want it for decades. Western Europe will probably be there in five years. West Germany, for example, has already licensed its first commercial cable station. The recent national elections in Sweden suggest that the Swedes are anxious to be colonized.

With a commercial network already in place, and a population abundantly served by video cassettes, Britain, apparently, is ready to surrender. Just as America itself surrendered. For there's the rub: the first country to be invaded by American television was America itself. For there was once a time when America was among the most literate of nations, characterized by rich diversity, intelligent moral conviction and creative energies that were an inspiration to the world.

But now we watch an average of eight hours of amusing television each day. During his lifetime, an American will see approximately two million amusing commercials, at the rate of about 1,000 a week. Our largest city, with a population of over eight million, has only three daily newspapers, two of them amusing picture newspapers. Our newest national newspaper, *USA Today*, is sold on the streets in amusing receptacles that look like TV sets.

Not so amusing is the fact that, according to a recent estimate, 60 million Americans – almost one-third of our entire population – is illiterate. And a recent report from the Librarian of Congress suggests that we may have at least the same number who are aliterate (people who can read but don't).

Among democratic nations, we have the lowest percentage of voters in national elections; we have a former Hollywood movie actor as our president; our businessmen have apparently lost faith in capitalist ideology, since they now believe it is better to improve the image of their products than the products themselves; our architecture, supermarkets, airports, theatres, schools and highways have become sufficiently homogenized to mute any energies that may come from regional diversity.

Invaders are not supposed to tell their victims what is in store for them. When one does, the word for it is treason, and I have already said too much. Instead, I shall end by saying to our British friends, in my most patriotic tone: "Welcome to the Age of American Television. Have a wonderful time."

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The author is Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences at New York University. His book, Amusing Ourselves to Death, *will be published by Heinemann on February 10 (£9.95).*

James Fergusson on a pioneering collection of modern literature



Orwell, Connolly, Huxley and Powell: giving the collection an Old Etonian backbone

Another first for Eton

Once upon a time, when they were prosperous and unselfconscious, the British cut a dash as book collectors. These days they are uninspired in their choice of what to collect and lack imagination, courage or flair in its pursuit. Their meanness is a byword.

This is true of institutions and individual collectors alike. Institutions' buying policies are safe and parochial, gap-filling rather than creative. In this they are unlike their American counterparts.

Aided by tax concessions, but in any case much more uninhibited, the Americans have even made modern first edition collecting look respectable. The collecting of books, as of anything else, is pointless unless it can be justified somehow as a contribution to knowledge. The collecting of "modern first editions", being the most voguish end of the market, is also the hardest to justify. Why do people pay enormous sums for the first appearances of P. G. Wodehouse's *The Pothunters* or Ian Fleming's *Casino Royale*? What contribution can such collecting make to anything?

Many American libraries have "special collections" of 20th-century literature; but, because it is controversial and a risk business, there is hardly a single British one. An unlikely and instructive exception is to be found not in a public or university library but at Eton. Not the long-established library of the foundation either, the internationally known College Library, but its poor relation, the unheard of, School Library.

Before 1821 pupils at Eton had no access to any library at all: College Library was the exclusive preserve of the provost and fellows. In that year a cheekily independent "Boys' Library" was opened; 30 years later it was formally accepted by the authorities and incorporated under a new name as the central academic reference and lending library.

School Library had no section of rare or special books, although it acquired a number of oddities by gift, the best of which was the original manuscript of Gray's *Elegy*. Until 1967, when Michael Meredith, the present schoolmaster-librarian, was appointed, no money had been spent beyond the call of duty.

Now a busy head of department and housemaster, Meredith is an example to collectors and curators. An ex-collector of Byron with considerable holdings of Browning, he is a restless evangelist for collecting in general and the collecting of 20th-century literature in particular. "You have to take a risk," he says.

Helped by John Carter, an Eton fellow, he set about giving the library a new dimension. They began by collecting the works of five modern Etonian authors. It was an obvious and a parochial project, although Eton is fortunate in its *parish: the authors they chose (and* more were later added) were George Orwell, Anthony Powell, Cyril Connolly, Henry Green and Aldous Huxley. Any well-constructed collection of these authors – and the collection *is* well constructed, rich in interest and including many manuscripts, letters and presentation copies – would be of value in itself as a 20th century literary record.

What distinguishes Meredith's effort is that he ventured beyond Eton's easy confines to the world outside. The impulse came when an American Old Etonian left the school a small Thomas Hardy collection. The three tea-chests of unknown treasure, comprising a good if modest haul of first editions, one or two letters from Hardy and the manuscript of *Men who March Away*, became the basis of what is now an important archive of books, manuscripts and ephemera consulted by scholars from all over the world.

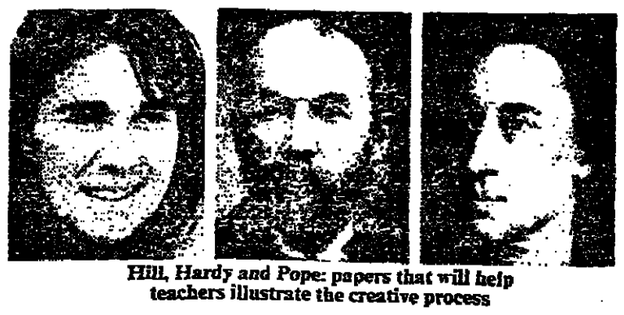
Since then Meredith's apparently random buying has assumed a coherence. Between them, his Etonian and non-Etonian authors ("Surely Hardy's not an OE?" one old boy exclaimed when asked for funds) make a not unrepresentative research collection.

Meredith is adamant, however, that it should be just as much a teaching collection, with roles to play in educating pupils about bibliography and book production and in introducing them to the physical business and complexities of writing. "I will buy anything I think is attractive in teaching," he says. That means not only T. S. Eliot and D. H. Lawrence but occasionally, to remind pupils that there exist centuries beyond, original editions of Pope and Fielding.

Much his most remarkable recent acquisition is the surviving working papers of Susan Hill, including notebooks, drafts and typescripts for her most celebrated novels, *Strange Meeting* and *I'm the King of the Castle*. Susan Hill, now a syllabus author, was only 18 when her first book was published, and her history appeals particularly to the young. Close examination of her early, fluent, but often illegible scripts tells one more about the practice of writing than any number of lessons in orthodox theory.

If the Hill papers had not been picked up by Eton, they would almost certainly have gone to the US. In the 1960s the Humanities Research Center in Texas carried off boatloads of British literary freight and memorabilia, even down to Evelyn Waugh's wastepaper basket.

In a small way, Eton's School Library has given collecting a proper context, making a collection of modern literature work for its living. Michael Meredith's budget these last 18 years has been derisory: he has relied on his expertise at begging, borrowing and donning. He has been lucky to be at Eton for this; but there is no earthly reason why Britons elsewhere should not be doing it too. American book collectors have had things too easy too long.



Hill, Hardy and Pope: papers that will help teachers illustrate the creative process

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Simon Winchester

Britons kept at arm's length

The bunting has been taken down in the Bahamas, and the dusty streets of Grenada and St Lucia are again their old somnolent selves. The Queen's visit to the Caribbean is already only a pleasant memory, captured by 10,000 instamatics and preserved in a dozen souvenir supplements that have already started to yellow in the steamy heat.

But in some half-forgotten island towns of the Windwards and the Leewards – towns with names like Plymouth, The Valley, Road Town and Grand Turk – there is today a sense of wistful puzzlement. Why, the locals wonder, did Her Majesty not manage to drop by? Why did her advisers at the Foreign Office and her courtiers at the Palace not think it worthwhile? After all, they muse, we are *British* subjects, living in *British* towns, on *British* islands. Do we not rate any longer?

Each town, as a regular player of Trivial Pursuit or a demon at geography or philately might realize, is the capital of a British West Indian colony – a place that has not yet achieved, nor perhaps has wanted, its independence from the motherland. Montserrat is one such; so is Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and the group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands – each one a British possession, complete with a plumed-helmeted governor in a magnificent government house, whose people long for some sign of affection and interest from home.

But, it seems, the colonials who remain are unvisited, unregarded, dismissed (so the locals believe) as of little importance to the greater needs and desires of Britain.

We have 16 colonies left in the rump of our once-great empire – little sun-bleached bones of islands and peninsulas dotted round every ocean. (Pedants will delight in the knowledge that the sun still, technically, does not set on Elizabeth's dominions: for as the flag goes down over Anguilla, so it is hoisted upon Pitcairn, and as it is lowered over the Falklands, so reveille sounds to the Gurkhas in Hong Kong.)

And although Her Majesty has recently been to some of her colonies (the Cayman Islands, three years ago), Princess Margaret has made the occasional foray (Bermuda, last autumn) and members of the cadet branches of the Royal Family have stepped briefly on the beaches of others (Prince Andrew has been to St Helena and to East Falkland Island), for the most part the establishment shuns the relics of empire as though wishing to forget responsibilities that had relevance in more glorious days than these. The colonies seem to have become, in short, a bit of an embarrassment.

But there are still people out there – more than five and a quarter million of them at the last count (though all but 150,000 of those live in the colony of Hong Kong). All of them are nominally British, many are poor or are in some way wanting, and most are bewildered by the scant attention paid to them by their rulers back home. And all, it seems, suffer from the sort of treatment that would never be meted out to those fortuate enough to be living in Britain itself.

The people of St Helena, for example, have been waiting for an eternity for someone to build them an airstrip – but Whitehall consistently says no, the cost is too high, and urges them (despite the best efforts of the governor) to make do with the elderly ship that wallows to the island eight times a year. The 44 benighted souls who choose to live on Pitcairn see a vessel only twice a year, if they are lucky, and must rely on the vagaries of a ham radio link to transmit their needs to Whitehall.

The British subjects on Tortola still have corporal (and capital) punishment on their statute books. And the 2,000 former inhabitants of our one colony in the Indian Ocean, Diego Garcia, are still living miles away from their homes on the island of Mauritius, simply because the British tossed them out to make way for a US military base and have ever since refused to let them return.

None of the colonials – save the Gibaltarians and, after a hurried post-war law change, the Falklanders – is permitted full citizenship of the United Kingdom. None of the 16 colonies has more than the most perfunctory representation in London. Unlike the case of the remaining French and Dutch colonies, no MP is elected for any British offshore possession, and none but an army of uninterested bureaucrats speaks in London for the needs of any one colony. The Treasury pays their bills; true – though with bad grace – and Whitehall publicly curses their irritating existence, and privately wishes heartily to be rid of the lot of them.

An inglorious end, one might say, to a once glorious empire. How much more neatly, and with how much more humanity, have our neighbours across the channel dealt with their small fag-ends of empire (save, of course, for their testing of the *force de frappe* on Mururoa atoll). Why do we still have no policy, no ideas, on what to do with these most distant possessions other than to sigh with exasperation and wish them all to sink into the oceans? Small problems, true, but as the South Atlantic war of three years ago displayed, out of small problems can large dilemmas grow.

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Simon Winchester's Outposts *was published by Hodder & Stoughton in October.*

Frank Johnson

Over the wall, a glimpse of Santa

West Berlin

Christmas, as we know it, is a German invention, imported into Britain in the early 19th century, and made irrevocable by the German, Prince Albert. But there are crucial differences between the British and German Christmas. This year, as every year, the German one started even earlier. Children left their shoes outside the door on December 5. Overnight, Saint Nicholas filled them with sweets, December 6 being his day.

Father Christmas's duties are divided between that saint, and someone called *Der Weihnachtmann* – the three days of Christmas Eve to Boxing Day being known, not as Christmas, but as *Weihnachten* (Literally: consecration nights).

This *Weihnachtmann* arrives to distribute his presents on Christmas Eve. The sweet-filled stocking is not part of the German Christmas, although virtually all other forms of consumption are.

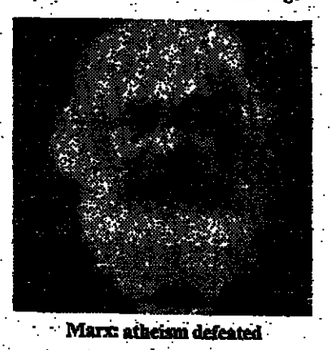
There is, on the face of it, one other thing different about a German, which anyone visiting Berlin is easily able to examine. Seventeen million Germans are citizens of a state allegedly inspired by the ideals of a German who explained that religion was the opiate of the people. Admittedly, Marx has been able to impose his views on these 17 million only as a result of the Russians: a race of which he seemed to have had a low opinion. But presumably the rulers of East Germany are Marxists and therefore atheists. To what extent, then, was Christmas going on beyond that wall?

Looking eastward from Checkpoint Charlie, early of an evening, last weekend, the signs did not look promising. There was a Christmas tree. But that was at the American control booth. Was this the western-most Christmas tree in Berlin? Behind was the neon of West Berlin. Ahead, apart from the East German lights illuminating the wall, all was gloom.

But the contrast with West Berlin was not because it was Christmas. It was because it was East Berlin. The area beyond the wall is rather difficult to make lively. Even the East German authorities probably find something inhibiting about watchtowers. Out of sight of the wall, and a few hundred yards into the capital of East Germany, matters improved. There was a 40 foot Christmas tree outside the city hall, and another outside the university. Lights were festooned along the Unter Den Linden, and across the Alexanderplatz.

An effigy of the *Weihnachtmann*, who wears the same uniform as Father Christmas, hung behind the bar in one of the big hotels – smiling tolerantly down on the low-level police informers who frequent such places and strike up conversations with foreigners by pretending to be dissidents. We learned that on Christmas Eve there would be services at the Protestant cathedral, a heavy, Bismarkian building reminiscent of the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, and at the Catholic Cathedral, a less brooding building inspired by the Pantheon.

While awaiting the demise of religion which Marx presumably believed would be one of the benefits of socialism, East Germany's rulers tolerate the churches. They do not believe that religion will ever cause them as much trouble as it has their colleagues in Poland. A western official in East Berlin described the churches there as a "safety valve." The regime does not mind people talking about "peace" and "human rights", in a way that is vaguely censorious of the government, provided they do it through the churches, and provided the censoriousness is indeed vague.



Marx: atheism defeated

The consequences of trying to suppress religion might provoke the feared "political" church, as in Poland.

So Christmas survived beyond the wall. Indeed, most of the wooden Christmas dolls and candleholders sold in the special Christmas street markets in every West German town are made in East Germany, and exported for western currency. That means there are not as many on view in East Germany. The East's Christmas trees are a bit threadbare too. That is because the best are sold to the West. Also, the toy shops lack the computerized games and precision-engineered train sets available in the smallest West German town.

After a while the visitor decides that, for the first time in his life, he is witnessing that vaunted, non-commercialized Christmas. If Marx had not come out against religion, it could be held up as another triumph of Marxism. On the other hand, he could reconcile himself to the East Berlin Christmas by saying that the festival was originally a pagan one.

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A VERY LATE WARNING SYSTEM

The crisis over Westland helicopters has in recent days overshadowed that over the Nimrod airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft – no doubt to the relief of GEC which, in differing ways, is deeply involved in both. But the respite should be only temporary, because as a lesson in how not to do things it is scarcely less depressing.

That it has not become more of a *cause célèbre* than it has, is perhaps because few of its potential critics can put their hands on their hearts and say: "I told you so." Politicians have not in the past found that an inhibiting factor. But the fact remains that when the Wilson Government commissioned GEC and British Aerospace in the spring of 1977 to develop an AEW variant of the successful Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft, the decision looked unquestionably right.

The RAF needed a new fleet of AEW machines to replace its existing force of 11 elderly Shackletons. The emergence of a new generation of Soviet bombers capable of flying fast, low-level, long-range sorties against the West underlined the need to buy the best available – especially at a time when Nato was jittery over the dangers of a short-warning war.

The best available looked in fact to be the American AWACS (an acronym for Airborne Warning and Control System) – a derivative of the Boeing 707, packed with advanced radar which from a height of 40,000 feet could peer several hundred miles over the horizon. Already being developed for the United States, AWACS was being vigorously sold to Nato as a Europackage, to patrol the 3,000-mile frontier with the East. The original idea was that Britain should join the package.

It didn't, because BAe and GEC persuaded the Ministry of Defence that they could produce a Nimrod-based alternative which, though smaller than AWACS, would in fact be superior over the sea. While management and unions, worried about jobs, battered the Government into submission at home, the European allies in Brussels kept failing to make up their minds. With the RAF increasingly anxious over the airworthiness of its Shackletons, Britain it seems had little option but to go it alone.

As things turned out, the Americans were so anxious to sell AWACS that they agreed almost 100 per cent offset arrangements with countries like West Germany. By contrast, Nimrod's costs have risen to around £900 million and the programme is running five years behind schedule. What has gone wrong?

Whitehall's explanation is that GEC was wildly optimistic over its ability to deliver the goods. GEC argues that under the cost-plus contract negotiated it could act only in response to the MOD's bidding and that had the latter been able to make up its mind – and had it not been so obsessed by false economy, Nimrod would now be flying.

As it is, it remains inferior in two fundamental respects. One is in its data-handling capacity. The other is the inadequacy of its radar over land where it not very good at distinguishing between, say, a slow-moving enemy helicopter and a family Mercedes on the autobahn.

Neither problem is insurmountable. The first could have been solved at the outset for a mere £10m by investing in a superior computer. The second is more difficult, since the size of the Comet air-frame on which Nimrod is based does not allow as large a radar dish as that borne by AWACS. But that too, says GEC, could be solved, given the fixed-price contract it now seeks to finish the job.

This may be so – and a mutually acceptable contract might emerge from the next confrontation between ministry and company in the New Year. But a training aircraft will still not be ready for up to a year – and an operational model for twelve months after that. Yet both these failings were foreseeable at the time that the original deal was concluded eight years ago.

Defence procurement is a high-risk area. The pace of technological change, the shifting balance of military advantage, inflation and competing pressures at home will ensure that it stays that way. But one incontrovertible truth rises above the barrage of mutual recrimination now being fired between Horse Guards Avenue and the GEC headquarters in Stanhope Gate. This is that if the Ministry of Defence and one of its prime contractors cannot do business together more efficiently than this it amounts to nothing less than a national disgrace.

The Nimrod story is only the latest in a long line of equipment programmes which have had to be cancelled – or continued at escalating cost to the taxpayer. In this case the ministry would seem to have left itself with little option but to authorise completion of the deal. But any contract now agreed should be watertight, with penalties for over-runs – and progress should be closely monitored on both sides. MPs might want to find out why monitoring in the past has apparently been so lax.

This ugly duckling may never become a swan. But somehow we have to get it into the air and see it fly.

UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Today someone, somewhere, may be raising his glass to six years of Soviet domination of Afghanistan. But as the anniversaries slip by, genuine celebrants become harder and harder to find. In the USSR itself Mr Brezhnev's Christmas adventure of 1979 is now widely seen as a disaster. For most Afghans it has long been a tragedy.

The last weeks of 1985 have witnessed some encouraging developments among the states of the South Asian sub-continent. The Dhaka summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was a realistically cautious effort at establishing a regional forum wherein the seven members involved can begin to foster a greater degree of mutual confidence and trust. Even more encouraging was the news of last week's meeting in Delhi between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and President Zia. After decades of suspicion between their countries, their six-point agreement included an undertaking not to attack each other's nuclear installations and an understanding aimed at curbing cross-border terrorism.

All the more depressing then, that the latest round of "proximity" talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan at Geneva should yield no tangible signs of progress. The sticking point revolves around the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Pakistan refuses to recognise the Kabul regime until an unequivocally detailed plan for Soviet withdrawal is presented. The Soviet surrogates headed by Babrak Karmal will countenance no mention of relinquishing their dependance on the Red Army until they receive full diplomatic recognition from Islamabad.

Six years after the Soviet invasion, is there any hope of a successful diplomatic settlement? The UN envoy at Geneva, Mr Diego Cordovez claims he has put forward proposals which are designed to breakdown the wall of mistrust before the two governments resume negotiations in late February 1986. Sadly, one has learnt to be sceptical of the UN envoy's over-optimism. Way back in April 1983 Cordovez claimed that 95 per cent of the settlement had been agreed on. Yet the talks still remain deadlocked.

It would be naive, of course, to imagine that hope rests purely on the two governments represented at Geneva. The superpower dimension is inescapable. The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, has given strong hints of Moscow's putative desire for a political settlement following an extensive exchange of words between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov at the Geneva summit. Two weeks ago, Washington demonstrated evidence of its flexibility in a letter to the UN Secretary-General, giving formal notification of a pledge to end American aid to the mujahidin guerillas in the event of a Soviet decision to pull out its combat troops. There are ample reasons however, to suspect that any new spirit of compromise by the United States will not be reflected by the Kremlin in 1986.

The Soviet participation in Geneva talks via the puppet Karmal regime appears to be little more than a ploy to soften international criticism while the Red Army gets on with the job of subjugating the country. At the centre of Soviet ideology is the belief that the armies of socialism march in one direction only. In other words, Moscow will refuse to consider a withdrawal until such time that the present regime in Kabul can survive on its own.Given the current state of the Afghan armed forces, that may be never. A dramatic reversal of the Afghan revolution would be a distinctly unpalatable proposition given the resources expended by the Soviet military.

Last weekend's Pravda article "Expanding the base of the Afghan revolution", calls for increased dialogue between the Karmal government and the guerilla fighters. It is tempting to interpret the statement as evidence of a major shift in Soviet policy, but it is by no means an entirely new development. One of the Kremlin's main motivations in toppling Hafizullah Amin in 1979 was to correct his "ultra-leftist excesses", by replacing him with a figurehead who might quell the fierce anti-communist opposition. In spite of this, the various attempts at placating the embittered Islamic groups by endeavouring to include them in councils of consultation have so far met with little success.

Time still looks to be on Moscow's side. Thousands of Afghan men and women have been sent to the Soviet Union for training and indoctrination. Key army and administrative posts are being filled by a new generation of communist cadres. This will undoubtedly hinder the resistance by making it more difficult for them to recruit valuable informers.

This factor alone will, of course, not prevent the mujahidin from continuing their spirited assaults. Their goal is not a victorious march on Kabul, but the success of a strategy which aims to make the continued occupation so costly that the Soviets will negotiate, or preferably, depart for good. It is, regrettably, an inspiration which shows little sign of being fulfilled.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grim prospect for schools in 1986

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, Congratulations on your perceptive second leader of December 16, providing an end-of-year summary of the real issues behind the teachers' pay dispute.

What is at stake now is indeed what was at stake at this time last year: a clear definition of teachers' responsibilities and higher salaries for those able most effectively to carry them out. If some kind of fudged settlement is made to secure a pause in industrial action which leaves those issues unaddressed, the prospects are grim for the education system in 1986.

Since the Professional Association of Teachers joined the Burnham committee at the beginning of this decade the same depressing story has been repeated year after year in pay negotiations. A battle has been fought, bringing disruption to schools and a relatively small rise in teachers' pay hovering around the prevailing inflation rate.

Anyone who thinks teachers' salaries will ultimately be restored to a professional level by the methodology of annual pay bargaining is blind to experience and reality. All that such a process demonstrates is the law of inevitable escalation, which says that the amount of disruption necessary next year to secure something like the inflation rate will be greater than the quantity required this year.

In view of the operation of this law, none should be surprised that the three months of disruption schools endured in 1984 have been followed by ten months of disruption in 1985 and look like being succeeded by uninterrupted industrial action throughout 1986.

It is easy to forget that everything was going to be different this year. For many months, everyone was talking about restructuring teachers' pay and attempting some kind of contractual definition of teachers' responsibilities. Unless and until we get back into that negotiating territory, there will be no peace in our schools in our time.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
99 Friar Gate,
Derby.
December 18.

From Mr Steve Bundred

Sir, In your reports (December 19) on next year's rate-support grant settlement there was no reference to the Government's treatment of the country's biggest education authority.

Just in case anyone might be under the impression that the Inner London Education Authority has somehow escaped the Government's wrath may I point out that next year ILEA faces an imposed cut of 3/4p in its rate precept – and once again will receive no block grant. We get nothing out of the additional money being made available to other London authorities.

I fail to understand how the Secretary of State for Education can propose such unrealistic spending and precept levels for ILEA and still seriously expect us to maintain inner London's education services.

I am equally mystified that Sir Keith Joseph can suggest that we dip into our reserves when we have already clearly told him that our available reserves are approaching zero.

Unless Sir Keith is prepared to wake up to the enormous costs of coping with inner London's education problems – not to mention the added burden of having to take over additional services when the GLC goes – education in inner London faces serious and lasting damage.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE BUNDRED, Chairman,
Finance Committee,
Inner London Education Authority,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.
December 20.

Test ban treaty

From Dr J. K. Leggett

Sir, In your editorial (December 20) on the comprehensive test ban treaty you remark that "Dependence on tests has to some extent decreased through advances in computer simulation . . ." This opinion is manifestly out of step with current thinking in the United States weapons laboratories.

The Director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory testified before the US House of Representatives in September, arguing that a CTBT was not in America's national security interests for reasons which included the following:

. . . we have yet to develop, let alone visualize *(sic)*, a facility which is capable of replacing nuclear tests. It is extremely difficult to simulate the extreme conditions within an exploding nuclear weapon: velocities of a million miles an hour, temperatures of ten million degrees, and time scales of a few billionths of a second . . .

Another Livermore scientist argued in the August, 1983, edition of *Physics Today* that

. . . weapons scientists do not understand some fundamental phenomena that bear on the performance of nuclear explosives. The nuclear weapons laboratories possess the country's most impressive computer resources and a very impressive cadre of theoretical physicists. Yet there are sometimes substantial discrepancies between calculation and experimental results; the mathematical models are just not adequate to predict reality . . .

A comprehensive test ban treaty would, as you say in your editorial, ". . . provide some impetus to the painfully slow progress over arms control . . ." There was no need for you to infer that computer simulation would render it somewhat academic.

The critical issue is that there is now a drift towards development of increasingly accurate weapons which might before long persuade military planners that a pre-emptive first strike is on the cards, or, worse still, lead the opposition to fear that this was so. Our fate then would be even more precariously in the balance than it is today. A ban on further testing would, evidently, halt that process in its tracks.

Sincerely,
J. K. LEGGETT,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Prince Consort Road,
South Kensington, SW7.
December 20.

Cost of burial

From Mr R. G. Hussey

Sir, As executor of the estate of a recently deceased lady of 93 years I find that the normal death grant of £30, poor enough in itself (I quote) "in the case of females born between July 5, 1888 and July 5, 1898" is halved to £15!

Unfortunately there is not a corresponding halving of the cost of a funeral for such people.

The number of ladies to whom this would apply must now be very small and I would have thought a munificent Government would now be prepared to forgo the small amount saved by this Draconian measure.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. HUSSEY,
10 Brockhampton Park,
Brockhampton,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
December 16.

No representation

From Mr Richard W. Quayle

Sir, Now that the Transport and General Workers' Union have accepted the principle of direct elections, can the Government consider other bodies which would benefit from direct elections?

These could include area health authorities, school governing bodies, together with the multitude of joint boards spawned by the abolition of the metropolitan councils.

Why should union members enjoy the privileged position of direct elections, whilst the remainder suffer the consequences of indirectly elected bodies affecting our daily lives?

Maybe even the Chairman of the Conservative Party will one day be elected by the members.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. QUAYLE,
12 Hollins Lane,
Keighley, West Yorkshire.
December 3.

Investing in ships

From the President of the General Council of British Shipping

Sir, Your "Business editorial" on December 7 pointed out, quite correctly, that the shipping industry is suffering from over-tonnaging. It went on to draw the false conclusion that the British shipping industry is mistaken in asking the Chancellor for improved tax allowances for buying second-hand ships.

The fact is that the maintenance of shipping services requires a steady flow of modern, fuel-efficient ships to replace older tonnage. The ships do not have to be new, just good. And in the present depressed state of the shipping market excellent, modern second-hand ships are available at attractive prices.

The alternatives for an owner are to buy new if he can afford it (which, of course, adds to the over-tonnaging) or to pull out altogether.

If a country which has the maritime equivalent of clapped-out old bangers feels able to encourage their scrapping, we raise a cheer. But in the UK the prime need is for better incentives to invest in ships, new or second-hand, so that British owners may seize opportunities now available and have some chance of remaining competitive against protected and subsidised foreign operators.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SHAW, President,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St. Mary Axe, EC3,
December 10.

Burdens on business

From Mr Hyman Arbeid

Sir, I listened this morning to Lord Young on the radio explaining the help that the Government were giving to small businesses. He cited as an example the simplification or abolition of planning applications for alterations to and change of use of premises.

However, there are many more involved and complicated statutes, statutory instruments, regulations and procedures relating to value-added tax, to income tax, to health, hygiene and fire regulations, and to local by-laws which often involve the small businessman in substantial expenditure in the employment of lawyers, accountants, surveyors and architects.

The Government departments concerned with the legislation do issue guidelines, but rarely are they written in such style as makes easy reading for the small businessman. Frequently even the professional advisers of small businessmen need to resort to technical divisions or tribunals for practical interpretation of the law, and not always with success.

Whilst the drafting of legislation remains in the hands of people far removed from its practical application, so the burdens and complications of carrying on business will remain.

Yours faithfully,
HYMAN ARBEID,
Febeson and Arbeid, chartered accountants,
63 and 65 Piccadilly, W1.
December 11.

Learning lessons from the Swiss

From Mr W. Farr

Sir, On returning to England after living in Switzerland for many years I spent some time at a Cambridge college as a visiting fellow. At dinner one night my neighbour asked me in a slightly condescending way, "Well, what has Switzerland ever produced of benefit to the world?"

I cited the usual names – Klee and Hodler, Le Corbusier and Giacometti, Piaget and Jung, Jean-Jaques Rousseau and Henri Dunant. My questioner was not impressed.

This started me thinking more about the Swiss experience that my family and I had taken so casually for granted for twenty-five years.

We British like to regard Switzerland as a pretty country of watchmakers and chocolate manufacturers, entertaining world statesmen – and half the world's Press – from time to time. It is not to be taken seriously, although we are quite fond of it and would visit it more often if it were not so expensive.

Is there anything more to say? There is. Switzerland has some lessons for us. To begin with, while it is a very rich country, everyone is well off. Why? The Swiss seem to enjoy working. Some time ago, they rejected, in a referendum, a proposal that the working week should be reduced from 44 to 40 hours.

Switzerland is a very beautiful country. Its factories, railway sidings, warehouses, and rubbish dumps are discreetly tucked away in the industrial quarter of the towns. Nowhere in Switzerland does one see the vast vistas of industrial Belsenism created by our first and second economic revolutions, or the inner-city wastelands we have here.

There is no great divide between two major political parties, quarrelling incessantly, reversing the other's policies and legislation when in power, and creating ever deeper class divisions.

There is no great expenditure on defence. Money is poured into the infrastructure – roads, railways, bridges, hospitals, parks, and beach maintenance, without mention of public spending targets or "creeping socialism".

There is no central despotism, no rate-capping, no overriding of cantonal and communal rights.

There are no strong leaders, no political personality cults. The President of the Swiss Confederation was invited one day to inspect the European centre for nuclear research (Cern) at Geneva. He arrived in an ordinary Swiss bus, with no police convoy, no helicopters, no Jaguar cars, no pomp and little media coverage.

Swiss children are taught at school to be good citizens. Parks are placed "under the protection of the citizen". The citizen protects his park. There is no vandalism.

Children walk to school and back on their own, often in the dark of winter. They are not molested.

I would suggest that those who wish Britain well and have the power to influence events here should read, or reread, *The Social Contract*, that masterpiece by Geneva's great citizen, Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Yours faithfully,
W. FARR,
Highfield Oast,
Sedlescombe,
East Sussex.
December 5.

Heavy horses

From Mr Philip Ryder-Davies

Sir, John Young's timely article (December 5) on the preservation of rare breeds of farm animals said that three breeds of heavy horses, Suffolk, Clydesdale and Cleveland, now have their own societies. In fact these societies are old-established.

The Suffolk Punch, as far as we know, is probably the oldest breed of heavy horse today, horses of this type being described in the 15th century. In pre-tractor days Suffolks existed in many thousands, but the large arable farms of East Anglia were ideal for mechanization. In 1962 only twelve foals were born.

We now have a breeding population of 90 mares and 25 stallions, but, unlike the other breeds of heavy horse, there is virtually no reserve population in other parts of the world, as there are only scattered Suffolks in Europe, in Pakistan (where they have been used for breeding army horses), and a small population in the United States of America.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RYDER-DAVIES,
Secretary, Suffolk Horse Society,
6 Church Street,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.
December 11.

Church and State

From Mrs Dora Nash

Sir, Clifford Longley's exhortation to the Church of England (feature, December 9) could also serve as a timely warning against the bourgeoisification and Anglicanization of the Catholic Church in this country.

It is the "rich folk culture" he describes which draws on traditional perceptions of authority and certainty in the Church and which is now threatened with extinction by equivocation in the teaching of doctrine, puritanism in Church architecture and banality in the liturgy.

Mr Longley is mistaken, however, in thinking that this "culture" is entirely Irish. Many working-class Catholics are English to the core, descendants of the landless labourers who moved into the towns from the Catholic countryside after the enclosures.

Yours faithfully,
DORA NASH,
9 Wantage Road,
Wallingford,
Oxfordshire.
December 9.

Student grants

From Mr R. E. Crum

Sir, There are many scandals concerning student grants and the biggest is the factor that is omitted both from public discussion and your own leading article today (December 18).

Why does Government continue to hand over publicly-financed resources to private industry without charging for them? "Here is a fully-trained chemist/computer analyst/translator/engineer. Please accept with our good wishes. No, of course there is no charge to pay".

It is well known that British industry has a pitiful record on training. Other countries levy a specific tax on all firms to finance training. Yet here the Government blithely gives away a public resource, albeit a resource that may have been financed by a compulsory levy on parents.

This failure to require firms to pay is directly contradictory to the Government's clearly expressed political beliefs. The fact that it is also condoned by omission in your leading article merely reinforces the feeling that private industry has only one objective: a private gravy train.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. CRUM,
89 Hall Road,
Norwich,
Norfolk.
December 18.

Occupational pensions

From the Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing

Sir, Your enthusiasm for occupational pensions (leading article, December 17) overlooks the fact that such pensions provide a reasonable retirement income only for those people who have been fortunate enough to enjoy continuous, well-paid work.

Occupational pensions provide very little for the low paid, for people who have had intermittent careers, notably women with family commitments, or for those unlucky enough to experience long periods of unemployment.

Can it be right that, at the age of, say, 75, two retired people receive widely differing incomes because, 20 years earlier, one had been a company executive, the other a nurse whose career had been dislocated whilst she raised a family?

Retired people fulfil a national obligation not to compete for scarce jobs in a shrinking labour market, just as children do. It is time we recognized the need for more "equality of opportunity" in retirement, just as we support the principle for young people. And that principle demands a generous State-provided social wage for older people, applicable to all regardless of occupation, or lack of it.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MIDWINTER, Director,
Centre for Policy on Ageing,
Nuffield Lodge Studio,
Regent's Park, NW1.
December 20.

Taxing man and wife

From Mr Michael D. Oakley

Sir, In your leader of December 11 ("His and her income") no mention is made of another anomaly in "family" taxation.

Under our present system fiscal legislation encourages a husband and wife to divorce in order that thereafter the husband can derive the taxation benefits that are available to him, if properly advised and drafted, of obtaining tax relief on payments that he makes for educating the children of that dissolved marriage.

The couple who remain loyal to each other derive no such equivalent benefit and tax relief is not available.

When we are told that one out of three marriages is breaking down is there not a case for some fiscal encouragement to stem the tide, and at least allow the same relief to all.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL D. OAKLEY,
Denison Suddards & Co, solicitors,
1 Wheelgate,
Malton,
North Yorkshire.
December 12.

Wind in the wires

From Mr Steven Alker

Sir, What a pity British Telecom are doing away with telegraph poles. I used to love the haunting moan of the wind in the wires.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN ALKER,
5 Barley Rise,
Baldock,
Hertfordshire.
December 17.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 27 1963

This article caused a minor sensation – The Times writing on pop music! News of it spread and for months after requests for a copy were received from all over the world.

What Songs the Beatles Sang . . .

From Our Music Critic

The outstanding English composers of 1963 must seem to have been John Lennon and Paul McCartney, the talented young musicians from Liverpool whose songs have been sweeping the country since last Christmas, whether performed by their own group, the Beatles, or by the numerous other teams of English troubadours that they also supply with songs. . . .

THREE OF THEM COMPOSE

The strength of character in pop songs seems, and quite understandably, to be determined usually by the number of composers involved: when three or four people are required to make the original tunesmith's work publicly presentable, it is unlikely to retain much individuality or to wear very well. The virtue of the Beatles' repertory is that, apparently, they do it themselves: three of the four are composers, they are versatile instrumentalists, and when they do borrow a song from another repertory, their treatment is idiosyncratic – as when Paul McCartney sings "Till there was You" from *The Music Man*, a cool, easy, tasteful version of this ballad, quite without artificial sentimentality.

Their noisy items are the ones that arouse teenagers' excitement. Glutinous crooning is generally out of fashion these days, and even a song about "Misery" sounds fundamentally quite cheerful: the slow, sad song about "That Boy", which figures prominently in Beatle programmes, is expressively unusual for its lugubrious music, but harmonically it is one of their most intriguing, with its chains of pandiatonic clusters, and the sentiment is acceptable because voiced cleanly and crisply. But harmonic interest is typical of their quicker songs too, and one gets the impression that they think simultaneously of harmony and melody, so firmly are the major tonic sevenths and ninths built into their tunes, and the flat submediant key switches, so natural is the Aeolian cadence at the end of "Not a second time" (the chord progression which ends Mahler's *Song of the Earth*).

Those submediant switches from C major into A flat major, and to a lesser extent mediant ones (e.g., the octave ascent in the famous "I want to hold your hand") are a trademark of Lennon-McCartney songs – they do not figure much in other pop repertories, or in the Beatles' arrangements of borrowed material – and show signs of becoming a mannerism. The other trademark of their compositions is a firm and purposeful bass line with a musical life of its own; how Lennon and McCartney divide their creative responsibilities I have yet to discover, but it is perhaps significant that Paul is the bass guitarist of the group. It may also be significant that George Harrison's song "Don't bother me" is harmonically a good deal more primitive, though it is nicely enough presented.

WELCOME VARIETY

I suppose it is the sheer loudness of the music that appeals to Beatles' admirers (there is something to be heard even through the squeals), and many parents must have cursed the electric guitar's amplification this Christmas – how fresh and euphonious the ordinary guitars sound in the Beatles' version of "Till there was you" – but parents who are still managing to survive the decibels and, after copious repetition over several months, still deriving some musical pleasure from the overhearing, do so because there is a good deal of variety – oh, so welcome in pop music – about what they sing.

The autocratic but not by any means ungrammatical attitude to tonality (closer to, say, Peter Maxwell Davies's carols in *O Magnum Mysterium* than to Gershwin or Loewe or even Lionel Bart); the exhilarating and often quasi-instrumental vocal duetting, sometimes in scat or in falsetto, behind the melodic line; the melismas with altered vowels ("I saw her yesterday-ee-ay") which have not quite become mannered, and the discreet, sometimes subtle, varieties of instrumentation – a suspicion of piano or organ, a few bars of mouth-organ obbligato, an excursion on the claves or maraccas; the translation of African Blues or American western idioms (in "Baby, it's you", the Magyar 8/8 metre too) into tough, sensitive Merseyside. . . .

هكذا من الأصل

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
December 24: Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 24: Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Ruth, Lady Fermoy as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Prince Andrew, as patron of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, will visit James W. Cook and Company's shipyard at Wivenhoe, Essex, on January 6, to view the progress of the work on the Sail Training Ship Lord Nelson.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as patron of Cot Death Research Support, the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, will attend a meeting at 4 Grosvenor Place, London, on February 11.

Birthdays today

Sir Gordon Brunton, 64; Miss Marlene Dietrich, 81; Mr Lance Gibbs, 60; Professor Brian Griffiths, 44; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 68; the Earl of Inchcape, 68; Sir William Kilpatrick, 79; Miss Pat Moss, 51; Dr J. N. L. Myres, 83; Professor D. H. Northcote, 64; Sir Anthony Plowman, 80; Professor B. R. Rees, 66; Sir Norman Reid, 70; Sir Jeffrey Sterling, 51; Miss Janet Street-Porter, 39; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, 82.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F. Buchan and Miss M. A. Bratt
The engagement is announced between Fergus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Buchan, of Alloa, Scotland, and Melanie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. H. Bratt, of Mereworth, Kent.

Dr J. C. Criswell and Miss C. B. A. Whiteside
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Criswell, of Edinburgh, and Clare, daughter of Commander and Mrs Robin Whiteside, of *Durley, Hampshire.*

Mr P. M. Exley and Miss S. S. Jones
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. B. Exley, of Tadley, Hampshire, and Sioned, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. S. Jones, of Newtown, Powys.

Mr A. J. C. Humphries and Miss M. H. Rosser
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Humphries, of Kingston, Jamaica, and Mary, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Peter Rosser, of Uffington, Oxfordshire.

Mr A. J. Keiller and Deaconess J. E. Hatfield
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs I. L. Keiller, of Biddenham, Bedford and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. W. Hatfield, of Totley, Sheffield.

Mr R. H. W. Leftwich and Miss C. G. Vandenbosch
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mrs P. A. Leftwich and the late Mr R. H. N. Leftwich, of Crowborough, Sussex, and Chantal, daughter of Mrs J. Vandenbosch and the late Mr G. S. Vandenbosch, of Drogenbos, Belgium.

Mr P. J. Matts and Miss A. J. Mantle
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Matts, of Beanacre, Wiltshire, and Alison, daughter of the late Mr W. Mantle and Mrs D. A. Mantle, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr J. B. Millard and Miss S.-J. V. Podlubny
The engagement is announced between John Berry, only son of Mr and Mrs Frank Whittemore Millard, of Old Greenwhich, Connecticut, and Sara-Jane Victoria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Leon Mieczyslaw Podlubny, of Knighton, Leicestershire.

Mr R. V. More and Miss J. C. Cherry
The engagement is announced between Roger, second son of the late G. R. H. More and of Mrs J. V. Hedley, of Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. H. Cherry, of Weston Manor, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Mr S. P. Newbury and Miss S. L. Groves
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs P. R. Newbury, of Rickmansworth, and Sarah Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P. D. B. Groves, of Loudwater, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr J. A. R. Peers and Miss S. Williams-Jones
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Peers, of Old Buckenham Hall, Norfolk, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Williams-Jones, of Bearcroft, Weobley, Herefordshire.

Mr J. D. Reynolds and Miss M. C. Ledgard
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Simon Reynolds, of Hastings, New Zealand, and Mary Clare, younger daughter of Canon and Mrs F. W. A. Ledgard, of Bedale, North Yorkshire.

Mr R. J. Sawkins and Miss K. S. Robson
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs K. Sawkins, of Twickenham, Middlesex, and Kim, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Robson, of Isleworth, Middlesex.

Mr M. G. Sharrock and Miss C. A. Brown
The engagement is announced between Martin Graeme, son of Mr and Mrs John Sharrock, of Croydon, Surrey, and Carolyn Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. H. Brown, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.

Mr M. A. J. Slowoski and Miss T. L. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs John Slowoski, of Hampstead, London, and Tessa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Higgins, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr P. J. H. Wickstead and Miss M. E. Perraudin
The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Wickstead, of Orelton Common, Herefordshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs F. R. Perraudin, of Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Latest appointments

The following to be vice-presidents of the Royal Society for the forthcoming year:

Sir John Mason, treasurer of the Royal Society and formerly director-general of the Meteorological Office, Bracknell; Professor D. C. Smith, biological secretary of the Royal Society and Sibthorpian professor of rural economy, Oxford University; Professor R. J. Elliott, physical secretary of the Royal Society and Wykenham professor of physics, Oxford University; Sir Arnold Burgen, foreign secretary of the Royal Society and Master of Darwin College, Cambridge; Professor B. Crossland, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering, Queen's University of Belfast; Professor I. G. Gass, professor of Earth sciences, Open University, Milton Keynes; Sir John Vane, formerly group research and development director, Wellcome Foundation.

Marriages

Dr J. Reidiess and Miss V. H. Watson
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday December 14 in Chelsea, of Dr Joachim Reidiess, eldest son of Dr Helmut and Mrs Margrit Reidiess, of Eschborn, West Germany, and Miss Vanessa Helen Watson, only daughter of the late Ralph Watson and Mrs Sadie Watson, of Codsal, south Staffordshire.

Mr J. M. R. Waller and Miss S. M. Small
The marriage took place at St Margaret's Church, Tilbury Juxta Clare, Essex, on Sunday December 22, between Mr Jeremy Mark Ralph Waller and Miss Sheila Margaret Small. Canon Edward Powell officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Christina Brown. Mr John Field was best man. A reception was held at Tilbury Hall and they will live in Nairobi.



The Pope blessing the crowds in St Peter's Square on Christmas Day.

Papal greetings in 50 languages

From Peter Nichols, Rome

After giving his traditional blessing from the balcony of St Peter's on Christmas morning, the Pope expressed his seasonal wishes in 50 languages, including this year for the first time the language of Afghanistan.

Among the others were Russian, Albaninan, Chinese, Korean and the five languages used in India, a country which he is due to visit in February.

In his Christmas message he spoke of an armed world too often overcome by temptation and by oppression. He recalled those who were dying of hunger or suffering from shameless denials of their human rights.

On Christmas day, he said, the church recalled to this troubled world that Christ was born that we should be reborn. And also that we might become new people moving towards the full joy of heaven inspired by justice and by love, and working for the building of a world in which every individual was accepted, respected and appreciated.

Almost 15,000 of the 50,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for his blessing had earlier taken part in a march through the centre of Rome, calling for action against hunger in the world.

Among leading politicians in the march was Senator Sandro Pertini, the former Italian president, who called on President Cossiga, his successor, with a message from the marchers calling for a programme this year which would save three million lives.

On Christmas Eve, the Pope received about 3,000 Poles, two thirds of whom were in the wartime refugee camp at Latina, near Rome. They took part in a ceremony of cutting a traditional Christmas loaf. The Pope said that through the symbolic slicing he was united with fellow Poles, at home and outside Poland.

In a brief speech, he spoke of the re-awakening among Poles of the sense of dignity of belonging to the Polish nation.

15th-century house becomes a bookshop

The Ancient House, Ipswich, a grade one listed building and scheduled ancient monument, has been reopened as a branch of Hatchards bookshop after extensive restoration and renovation.

The house, which dates from the fifteenth century, was described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "more ornate and gayer than any other house of its date in England". Its fame rests on the elaborate late seventeenth century pargetting which decorates the front.

Latest wills

Mr John Williams, of West Kirby, Merseyside, left estate valued at £163,151 net. Among other bequests he left £50,000 to the British Heart Foundation.

Mrs Carole Jennifer Clarke, of Abberley, Hereford and Worcester, left £2,557,610 net.

Lady Monkswell, of Kensington, London, widow of 3rd Baron Monkswell, left £263,429 net.

Mr Reginald Jack Hayward, of Eastbourne, a member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London for many years, left £580,988 net.

Other estate, include (net, before tax paid):

Barber, Mr Arthur Bernard, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire.....£341,428
French, Mr George Dennis, of Southminster, Essex.....£457,733
Froud, Mrs Joyce Audrey, of Bristol.....£384,253
Hollow, Mrs Mary Banfield, of St Ives, Cornwall.....£462,050
Mann, Mrs Margaret Ellen, of Montclair Drive, Liverpool.....£346,987
McClure, Mr William Duncan, of Burford, Oxfordsjhire, underwriting member of Lloyd's.....£684,277
Suffield, Dr William Eric, of Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire.....£330,961
Tickner, Beatrice Ethel, of Storrington, West Sussex.....£269,515
Trotman, Mr Stuart Maclean, of Hermitage, Berkshire.....£279,167
Wharton, Mr James Gilbert, of Haringey, London.....£485,376

Science report

Mystery of orchid's gradual extinction

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Years of research and intense observation have failed to show exactly why the handsome military orchid has become one of the rarest wild plants in Britain.

The plant was thought to be extinct here in the 1930s, and so few have been discovered since that each can be watched and logged by naturalists.

The plants when in flower are guarded night and day by enthusiasts who camp near them to discourage collectors wanting to transplant the orchids to their gardens.

A survey by Miss Lynne Farrell, lowland, heathland and rare plant ecologist with the Nature Conservancy Council, shows that the British population of the military orchid is dwindling despite endless efforts to persuade it to enlarge its territory.

Most of the reasons for its decline are known. The first is that its favourite haunts in and near the Thames Valley have been built on. Another is that its exotic mauve flowers are an irresistible lure for some gardeners. They seldom realize that orchids almost never survive being dug up because of their complex relationships with fungus growths in the soil.

Rabbits eat the fledgling orchids, and they stop growing if their sunlight is blocked. There are only four British colonies left of the plant, which is widespread in a few European countries, including Poland and France.

Most of the British survivors are in Suffolk, but a few remain in the Chilterns, where some were found only 10 years ago. Miss Farrell shows that numbers are declining slowly on the two main sites, where there were 580 plants in 1977 and 386 in 1984.

The fate of the military orchid demonstrates that a plant can still be threatened with extinction even when it is protected by law and by naturalists. The trouble with orchids is that they grow only in the right soil and light conditions, that they mature very slowly and that their seed is often sterile.

Miss Farrell shows that erratic production of its minute seeds is one of the keys to the decline of the orchid. It takes years to produce its first flowers and then often fails to flower every year. Even then it often does not produce fertile seeds.

Miss Farrell reports that investigation of orchid specimens kept by generations of naturalists suggest that the military orchid has been a poor producer of fertile seed in Britain for at least 150 years.

But that is not its final problem. It is futile for the plant to produce seeds if they do not grow into new plants. Miss Farrell says that despite intensive observation of all the British military orchids "nothing is known of the timing of germination or early development in the field".

Little has so far been achieved by collecting seeds from the surviving plants and sowing them in places that seem ideal for new colonies. "Seed sown on a bare soil surface in Suffolk in 1979 has not produced any visible plants yet", Miss Farrell says.

Source: *The Journal of Ecology*, vol 73, no 3 (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford, Oxford OX2 0EL; annual subscription £65).

Habgood speaks of fatalism's dangers

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, spoke of the dangers of fatalism, in his Christmas Day sermon at York Minster.

"Nobody need look at our present tortured world, and deduce that it is set on a course which leads to inevitable doom. The only thing we really know about the furture is that it is in God's hands and that there are no limits to be set on his power to bring new light and, life and hope", he said.

Belief in some kind of fatalism was enormously widespread in our culture. It lay at the root of a great many people's religious feelings.

There was much to reinforce it, Dr Habgood said, there was the sense of powerlessness, of being caught up in huge remorseless processes over which we have no control.

"The urban priorities report took the powerlessness of those in our inner cities as one of its main themes. But there is also a powerlessness among the allegedly powerful, who may feel no less trapped by the constraints within which they have to make their decisions."

The Archbishop spoke of a recent meeting he had had with a group of South African Christian leaders in Harare.

He had come away "oppressed with the sense that events there are moving inexorably in the direction of further violence and bloody conflict".

A few weeks before he had been in the Middle East, where again it was hard not to feel that people were trapped by their own history, caught up in some demonic vicious circle of irreconcilable interests.

"But to grasp the message of Christmas is to believe that God also does new things, surprising things, that He acts in ways which give new meaning to the past and create new possibilities for the future.

"Nobody need look at their own life, and despair of it, or feel that it is past changing. Christ is born, not only in Bethlehem, but in every heart that receives him.

"So the story of Christmas is not an interlude in an otherwise dreary and fate-ridden existence. It is the linchpin of history, the answer to the questions which have haunted mankind: does God exist and does he care?"

Gray's Inn

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn: Mr Iain James Black, QC (recorder); Mr David Charles Waddington, QC (recorder), Mr John Morris, QC (recorder), Mr Kenneth Stuart Rokison, QC, Mr John Frank Mummery, and Miss Ann Curnow, QC.

OBITUARY

GENERAL SIR JAMES MARSHALL-CORNWALL

Alamein defence plan

General Sir James Handyside Marshall-Cornwall, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, who died on Christmas Day aged 98, had a versatile military career, and pursued with zest many interests outside his profession. Into his 36 years of service in the Army he managed to cram a wider experience than almost any other officer of his generation; and his energies did not flag after his retirement.

Born in 1887, the son of a Postmaster-General of the United Provinces in India, he was educated at Rugby and Woolwich, and gazetted into the Royal Artillery in 1907.

He was already interested in languages, and spent every spell of leave that came his way in visiting continental countries in order to add to his linguistic repertoire.

Throughout the war of 1914-18 he was employed mostly on the Intelligence Staff in France and Flanders, being awarded the DSO, and MC, as well as several foreign decorations; being five times mentioned in despatches; receiving the brevets of major and lieutenant-colonel; and being popularly credited with some exceptionally adventurous exploits in this mysterious field.

Despite his lack of inches, he ventured often into No Man's Land, sometimes as far as the enemy trenches, returning with a prisoner purloined for purposes of identification.

It was not surprising that after the war he was very much in demand for appointments on the military-diplomatic fringe: at the Peace Conference in Paris, with the Army of the Black Sea, and on the Thracian Boundary Commission. He was Military Attache to Berlin and the Scandinavian countries in the years immediately preceding the rise of Hitler, and was head of the Military Mission to Egypt in 1937-38.

When the Second World War broke out he was in the War Office, being promoted to command III Corps soon after the collapse of France. In December 1940, Churchill decided to send a small liaison mission to Turkey, to advise and report on the Turkish defences, and to encourage them (a policy of dubious wisdom) to enter the war on the side of the Allies. Marshall-Cornwall was chosen to lead this party.

The Turks were suspicious of its intentions, and accepted it only because they were anxious to receive British war material; but their suspicions were largely allayed by Marshall-Cornwall's tact and his knowledge of their language.

It was quickly obvious that, although they were prepared to resist German invasion, they were not prepared to provoke it. The British setbacks in Greece and the Western Desert in April 1941 made it clear that the Mission was achieving no useful purpose; and when, on the 7th of that month, Generals O'Connor, Neame and Gambier-Parry were all captured near Derna, Sir Archibald Wavell called on Marshall-Cornwall to assume command of British Troops in Egypt.

For this task he was admirably fitted. He knew all the senior Egyptian officers by virtue of his appointment in Cairo four years earlier, and he spoke their language with fluency. He remained in Egypt for less tha six months, being appointed Commander-in-Chief, Western Command, in England before the end of the year.

But – and this is not generally known – during this short period he selected and surveyed the defence line near El Alamein, which became of such importance during the disastrous months of the following year; and despite the low priority accorded it he managed to invest a proportion of the meagre resources of the Middle East Command into its preparation. In 1943 he was placed on the retired list.

New spheres of congenial activity, for which he had exceptional qualifications, soon presented themselves. For three years he edited, on behalf of the Foreign Office, such of the captured German archives as had fallen into British hands. In 1954 he succeeded Sir James Wordie as President of the Royal Geographical Society, of which he had long been a Fellow.

Late in life, with his characteristic zest, he blossomed into a new career as military biography. He produced lives of Masséna, Napoleon, Grant, Foch and Haig. None of them was light in manner; but they were painstakingly accurate, and meticulously illustrated, mapped and indexed. An autobiography, *Wars and Rumours of Wars*, appeared last year.

He married in 1921 Marjorie Scott Owen, and took much interested in Wales thereafter.

MR FERHAT ABBAS

Ferhat Abbas, an Algerian politician who headed the Algerian Government-in-exile before his country achieved independence, died on December 24 at the age of 86.

Born in 1899 at Taher in the Kabylie country, he early showed political inclinations and from 1924 to 1929 was President of a Muslim Students' Association which he himself had founded.

In 1939 he served for a time as a volunteer in the French Army, and subsequently settled down in Sétif as a chemist. His incipient Nationalist sentiments, were stimulated by the defeat of France in 1940, and in 1942 he produced a "Manifesto of the Algerian People", a document which set out in forthright terms Algerian grievances against the French authorities. For this he was arrested, though soon released; and in 1945, after serious anti-French riots in Sétif and elsewhere had led to severe French repressive measures, he was again arrested, but again released.

In 1955 he joined the "Front de Libération Nationale" (FLN), the main Algerian resistance organization, and in the following year escaped to Cairo, where its principal leaders, including Ben Bella the future President of Algeria, were now concentrated and whence the rebellion in Algeria was being controlled.

In 1958, after Ben Bella had been kidnapped and imprisoned by the French, Ferhat Abbas was mainly responsible for the establishment in Tunis of a "Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic", which he headed and which secured recognition by a number of Afro-Asian and Communist States.

Soon, however, his comparative moderation caused him to be overshadowed by more forceful leaders, and in 1961 he was superseded by Ben Khedda.

In the late 1962, after Algeria had achieved independence and Ben Khedda had in turn been superseded by Ben Bella, the latter appointed Ferhat Abbas President of the National Constituent Assembly.

Again, however, he found himself out of line with the ruling faction. In 1963, after having protested against the lack of political freedom in the Ben Bella régime, he resigned because Ben Bella had published a draft Constitution without consulting the Constituent Assembly. His defiance of Ben Bella resulted in his expulsion from the FLN and in his subsequent arrest, and he was sent into forced residence on the confines of the Sahara.

In 1965, after Ben Bella had been overthrown in a coup d'etat, he was released but was put under house arrest again under the Boumedienne regime. Last year he had been rehabilitated and decorated with the Medal of the Resistance.

MR PHILIP MACKIE

Philip Mackie, the writer and former Head of Drama at Granada TV, died on December 23. He was 67.

He read English at University College, London, and graduated just as war began in 1939. He was commissioned into the Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment and later served with the First Airborne Division. He was captured on a night patrol in Italy but escaped and made his way back across country to rejoin the Eighth Army. He was mentioned in dispatches for gallantry.

In 1946 he joined the Ministry of Information Films Division producing documentaries, first for the Marshall Plan in Paris and later, as a freelance all over Europe.

In 1954 he returned to England and began writing for the BBC and the theatre.

Among his theatre plays were *The Whole Truth* (1956); *The Open House* (1957); *Key of the Door* (1958); and *The Big Killing* (1962). He also in this period published one novel *Hurrah! The Flag!*

In 1958 he joined Granada TV as their first head of drama and four years later went freelance while still remaining under contract to the company. He now wrote and produced some of their most successful drama series; *Saki*, *Maupassant*; *The Victorians*; *The Liars*; and the award winning series *The Caesars*. In 1970 he wrote and produced a feature film for Granada called *All the Way Up*.

In the 1970s his powers were at their height and he turned out a whole clutch of compelling television plays: *The Organisation*; *Conjugal Rights* (1972); *Napoleon and Love* (1974) and perhaps his best known single achievement *The Naked Civil Servant* (1975). His recent television work included the Raffles series, *Therese Raquin*; *East Lynne*; *Praying Mantis*; and *The Cleopatras*.

Mackie was a shy, gentle, slightly tentative man on first meeting, but his laconic wit and iconoclastic humour soon broke the ice. He was an engaging and civilised friend. He travelled widely enjoyed wine, and loved opera. His house at Kelmscott was a favourite rendezvous for writers, directors and actors and his wife Cynthia, an accomplished hostess, dispensed generous but unobtrusive hospitality to their multifarious guests. The barn dance they held at Kelmscott every summer for charity was always a high point in the local season.

He will be remembered as a highly professional and intelligent writer who brought an elegance and style to the small screen. One of his most distinctive television plays, *Claudius*, will be seen shortly on Channel 4.

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Elections and awards at Cambridge University

The following elections and awards have been made at Cambridge University:

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
Scholarships: M B Atherton, Townsend scholarship; C J Aldis, Townsend scholarship; S R Axbey, McAulay scholarship; S R Barrett, Robinson scholarship; Mrs K M Beatty, D C Bertram, McAulay scholarship; W A Bibby, Townsend scholarship; Billingham, Latymer scholarship; A W Bott, United Steel Companies scholarship; R Boyle, Bayits scholarship; C L Bradshaw, McAulay scholarship; H K Bungay, Sidgwick exhibition; C H S Cheah, Whytehead scholarship; E-G Cheah, Rolleston scholarship; A M Dickinson, Horne scholarship; J Ellis, United Steel Companies scholarship; S M Ezralee, Rolleston scholarship; C D Ford, Mayor scholarship; D Giulini, Bayits scholarship; T J Gordon, United Steel Companies scholarship; S M Gray, United Steel Companies scholarship; M A Hanning-Lee, United Steel Companies scholarship; D Harrison, Whytehead scholarship; P Healy, Duchess of Somerset scholarship; P N Herold, J Hims, McAulay scholarship; B K Howard, United Steel Companies scholarship.

S J Hussey, United Steel Companies scholarship; N L Jackson, S A Jaffe, Whythead scholarship; S S Kumar, Townsend scholarship; P W S Lane, Whytehead scholarship; R A Leese, Horne scholarship; P R P Mantyre-Scott, Mayscholarship; P A McKenna, Townsend scholarship; J McVay, Whytehead scholarship; P Morland, Morton scholarship; R J Mercer, Townsend scholarship; S J Montgomery-Smith, Munsteven scholarship; T M Mortimer, Horne scholarship; N T Mowbray, C W Murray, United Steel Companies scholarship; D J Overd, United Steel Companies scholarship; H Pandeli, Whytehead scholarship; P M A Phillips, Horne scholarship; J P E Pledger, McAulay scholarship; S C Reynolds, McAulay scholarship; B A C Richardson, Rolleston scholarship; A N Rimgrose, Whytehead scholarship; P C Samuels, Horne scholarship.

R W Samuelson, United Steel Companies scholarship; A P Schwartzenbberger, United Steel Companies scholarship; S W J Sylvester, United Steel Companies scholarship; D J Slater, Horne scholarship; M P Tasker, United Steel Companies scholarship; N D Tebbutt, United Steel Companies scholarship; A M G Westcott, Bowman scholarship; R J Wheatley, United Steel Companies scholarship; R W J Wilson, Horne scholarship; A W Woods, Horne scholarship; N C Wright, Whytehead scholarship.

Prizes:
Bastians: B R P Macintyre: Chivers: J C Frost: Constable: M A Hanning-Lee, C W Murray: Diver: E C Cheah: Earle: J E Tasker, A N Ringrose: Hart: A Wheatley, Hockin: J Ellis, D Giulini, P N Herold, R W Samuelson, S W J Sylvester: Hollybread: Newsome: R Whatley: Hughes: J Ellis, S Giulini, P N Herold, R J Mercer, R W G Wilson: Johnston: R S Biswas, E-G Cheah: Peter Ralph Lagwood: B A Jarvis: Mallinson: S A Jaffe: Newcombe: J P E Pegler, Northolt: B A C Richardson: Pollard: S A Jaffe, D R P Macintyre: Whitfield: D J Bradshaw.
Wright – for Archaeology and anthropology: A N Ringrose: for economics: P W S Lane: for engineering: H S Kumar, R J Mercer: for English: S C Reynolds: for mathematics: N Antoniou, R S Biswas, R Boyle, E T Grimley Evans, S J Montgomery-Smith, D I Slater, C R W J Wilson, A W Woods: for medical sciences: R A F Crawford, K C L Leung: for modern languages: C H S Carter, P Mariand, H Pandeli.
College – for classics: A Rashbass: for computer science: M B Atherton, M R Boyle: for economics: S R Axbey, D Ford, D Kouttair: for engineering: C J Aldis, W A Bibby, J M Buston, P A McKenna, C C Smith, A M G Westcott: for geography: D C Bertrain: for law: Mrs K M Beatty, M L Jackson: for mathematics: J Billingham, A M Dickinson, R J Mercer, S M Jones, M A Leese, M Mortimer, N J Mowbray, D J Palmer, M A Phillips, P C Samuels, P A Tuckey.
Medical sciences: R Baker, S R Barrett, H K Bungay, S M Eccles, J Hims, N C Wright: for modern languages: P Healy: for natural sciences: A W Bott, T J Gordon, S M Gray, B K Harrison, B K Howard, S J Hussey, J McVay, D I Overd, A P Schwarzenberger, N D Tromans, C M Warwick: for veterinary medicine: P D Clegg.
KING'S COLLEGE
Scholarships
Economics: C N Shannon (Bishop Stortford); C Y Tan (Bishop Abraham), A R McIsaac (Bishs Abraham); mathematics: N P Byott (Carr); music: D E S Pawsey (J R Selwyn); natural sciences: D J Drake, S E Elliott (Corfield), B D Simons (Corfield), J J Titman (Corfield).
Title of Scholar
Chemical engineering: M R Woodman; history: P G Cook, M H Thompson; natural sciences: M J Harrison, A M Sheeted, A S Wilson; theology: D S Cunningham.
Modern languages: C R Mills (J R Selwyn), R A Craig (J R Selwyn).
College prizes on examination results
Chemical engineering: M R Woodman; economics: C N Shannon, C Y Tan, A R McIsaac; engineering: A D Rickell; history: P G Cook, S J Smith, M H Thompson; W E Jones; mathematics: M R Harrison, N P Byott; modern languages: R J Sochart, C R Mills, R A Craig; music: D E S Pawsey; natural sciences: P J Harrington, M J Harrison, J S King, A M Sheeted, A S Wilson, D J Drake, T R Elliott, B D Simons, J J Titman; theology: D S Cunningham, S D Conway.
Hargreaves prize for engineering: A D Rickell, M R Woodman; Whitehead history prize: P G Cook; Yarrow prize for mathematics: M R Harrison; Searle prize for mathematics: N P Byott; Forster prize for economics: C N Shannon; Tapper prize for chemistry: J S King; Borradaile prize for zoology: A S Wilson; Seraphim prize for biochemistry: A M Sehested, Siddons prize for theology: P J Harrington; Hirwain Gregg prize for theology: D S Cunningham; Appleton prize for reading in Chapel: O R Jones.

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE
Scholarships for one year: M L Abrahams (Taylor), M J Ambrose (Howard Agg), P J Bennet (Taylor), C M Chedder (Whittaker), J C C Chao (Taylor), C C Crew (Carver), R J Dowling (Taylor), R E Gibson, S D Grew (Pochin), J F Hall (Taylor), M W Hamilton (Taylor), A S Holmes, N S Holmes, S P Jarvis, K J M Jones (Taylor), C Kania (Whittaker), S Y-K Law (Taylor), E M Lee (Howard Agg), M Jack Newman (Pochin), M John Newman (Haswell), J F Owen (Taylor), D B Penman (Taylor), R V Penty (Taylor), R A Salmon (Taylor), A Siddall, A L Smith (Taylor), C M Sudlow (Taylor), J B W Taylor (Taylor), A Terry, D J Slater, C R Trendell (Taylor), G D H Turner (Taylor).
Awarded the title of scholar: R V Farley, J A Knox, D P Levy, D E Lucas, R J Mobbs, T O'Neill, L C Reif, S Shah, S A Sunderland, E G Tudor.
Exhibitions for one year: J K L Allott, R G Haines, M W Hodges, S R Morris, D C Orrell, S P Day, C M Dobson (for 1986-87), W Polben (for 1986-87), D F Gallagher, J A Galloway, J J Gilmore (for 1986-87), I D Gent, Y Gurbiyz, P G Higgs, R T Jessen, T A Johnson, J C Kolbert, R K C Lam, K D Lightfoot, M P Nicholson-Bailey, S L Marsh (for 1986-87), R H M Ogan, M O'Brien, J E Ouston, J H Perry, H A Pilkington, M H Smith, R E E Smith, I C Taylor, J S A Tolstall, N M Tyszkiewicz, D M Wong.
Thomas Nevile Scholarships: M J Ambrose, S T Baily, A J Bebbington, M D Bennet, P J Bennet, R H Bowdler, C M Chedder, J C C Chao, M J Dowling, M Duggan, M R Echlin, R V Farley, D G Garton, S D Grew, J F Hall, M W Hamilton, D E P Henley, A S Holmes, N S Holmes, S P Jarvis, K J M Jones, C Kania, J A Knox, S Y-K Law, E M Lee, D P Levy, D P Lucas, A L Mobbs, M Nick Newman, M John Newman, T O'Neill, J F Owen, D B Penman, R V Penty, L C Reif, G G Ross, R A Salmon, S Shah, S N Sheard, A L Smith, W C Steven, C M Sudlow, S A Sutherland, M J Tordoff, E G Tudor, G D H Turner, A J Watson.
College prizes: R K Gibson, A Siddall, J B W Taylor.
Hardcarth prizes: R K Gibson, I D Jordan, A Siddall.
Reading prize: C M Chedder; Wilson prize: J A Knox, Thaward prize: not awarded; Newman prize: S Shah; Peachey prize: I Redman.
College research studentships: R H Bowdler, A Fernihough.
Evan Lewis Thomas Law studentships. Elected for one year to prepare for practice as barristers or solicitors: M C As'ad, B Goldsmith, M Duggan, R J Ernest, J Rae-Edwards, N D F Gray, S P Ibbetson, R P Mallender, S E Parry, J H S Russen, A M Shorthouse: elected for one year to come into residence for Part II of the LLM degree: C M Elliott, B R M Murray.
TRINITY COLLEGE
Prince of Wales studentships: P V S Bhamra; Imperial research studentships: G Sebastian, N Farshait, M N Hussein, A E Mishra, M J Padgett, S H Saarinen, G Q Zhang; Belmont studentship: M A Butchers; Cooke Hurle travelling studentships: K L Hearnden.
Crawford travelling scholarships: C D C Atherton, R H Bowen, A M Gow, A J Kirkpatrick, P G Ledbury; Henry Arthur Holford studentships: J E Halsall, C V Kinahan, J E Moore, R Singh.
Jeston exhibition: T P O'Connor, L Taylor; Knox scholarship: C Jean; Robert Mer studentship: P J McNally; Isaac Newton studentship: E P S Spellars; Perring travelling scholarship: G D Williams.
Rouse Ball travelling studentships: A J Gustawicz, J W R Cummings, L R Prendiville, R Taylor; Kaye travelling studentships: W R J Lambert, S Lim, T J Tan; Whitaker scholarship: P D Sánchez-Ruiz.
Senior scholarships: C D Agar, P N Balister, C V Ben Nathan, C J Bowden, S Cairns, D A Chalcraft, R J Chapman, A R Cooper, D N Corfield, N D Gromlie, J N Y Davidson, S J Davies, Mrs C J M Dilworth, D G Ewart, A J Fitt, P Gillson, W R Graham, J J Hall, G G Harlen, J R Hunton, R C Huntsdon, J C Hyde, T L Lesty, D R L Mac, M P Lipsey, Magarian, G Major, A O Martins, N J Mee, C L Meredith, D K Mich, P S Montague, N M Mullally, N D Murray, J C Newman, A J Priestly, C J Riches, T E Robinson, G A Smith, T G Tan, J R Turner, G F Watson, M L Webb, T W Wilkes, W S D Wilcock, R D Williams, B L Windsor.
Junior scholarships: T G Andrews, A W J Bell, F N W Bellaby, B D Brunswick, A S Clark, J R Cummings, Mrs S de Mas, C E Doolittle, M D Durrant, C P Fenn, N E Freeman, D J Gress, S M V Hafner, J Hart, R M Heirons, R E Hunt, D R Hyde, D Komisus, T Y Lau, P Mavromatis, A C Murray, P O'Connor, C J A Pearson, W S Perkins, T H Reiss, I Ritchey, F H Sansbury, A Vellotis.
Prizes:
Lizette Benjwich: P A L Camilleri, S L Carr, M J Curtis, B J Davidson, Mrs C J M Dilymovic, P G Emery, R M Feather, P Fitzsimons, P J Hamilton, P A Hayes, M Martins, W H Morris, N M Mullaity, R Singh, R P Slade, M Solomon, M W Soundy, S G Turner, S K Young; Bethune: D M Mott; chapel reading: B J Davidson, M Martins; Gregg Bury calsical: R N Fielden, H S Freeman, C D Williams; East at Derby: J N Cowen, D D Penman, R V Penty, L C Reif, Lemmon, P L Webb; English essay: P St J Mackintosh, R M Gillett; Alan Gray; M H Levy; Greaves: G Major.
Honour Declamation: J C L Farnham, L Lyrakis, M H Martyr, S Mavrides, M H Freeman; Edith Leigh piano: L R Churner; Mathison: J J Hall, S Line, S J Lyne, J McKernan, M R Platte, G F A Osborn, T Rowe, M W Tomlinson, D R Wilkinson, P S Montague; Powell, J B E Chauncey; Rouse Ball: P Bowcock, J M Evans, R A W Gregory, A D Kiss, K H Kulkarni; Science Jessop: A G Gallonio, D R Higgins; Christopher Simpson memorial: M W Soundy; Charles Grant Tennant: A T G Hill and C U Vaughan, C Edwards and N D Crombie (tenors); Everard Vershayden: R A Hatfield, E Hendriks, H M Williams; Walker: A G Gallonio; James Wells: W T Gowers, C H Edwards, R J Maher, A Washbourne; Whibley: D R Higgins, F J H Murphy; Robert Wright: H Nicholson; Yeats: T J Lennon; Years mathematical: A M Fraser.
Ver Hayden de Lancey games prizes: L Carter, M K Johnson, P S Kleinman, R G Miles, D Vaz, M J Williamson, A C Wilson, R H S Mellor, T J A Wilkinson, A C Wright, C Richards, F J Macdonald, G Culshaw, J A Stutz, W R Graham, A M Bailey, H E Crawshaw, L R Gates, D Hardiman, C Hutchings, A M Barron, D D A Lawson, P Sanderson, A T Cater, S J Pilkington, I K Riley, S D Mepsy, N J Davis-Poynter, H H Rees, M A Orrell, M Brain, J Lewis, A C H Dyson

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Westland should opt for a European landing

The political sparring over the ailing Westland helicopter company proves that the senior Cabinet ministers have not lost their gift for the ludicrous. However amusing the public set-to between Michael Heseltine and Leon Brittan may be, their statements and the roaring of their Tory factions are unhelpful diversions from the serious issue of Westland's future.

The important questions are not whether the Secretary of State for Defence is making a bid for the Conservative succession (Mr Heseltine is not stupid the time for that is far into a hazy future); or whether the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry is still sensitive about his shift from the Home Office. They are whether this country requires a capability to design and make helicopters; and if the answers is "yes", whether this capability is better ensured if Westland becomes part of a European consortium or a client company of the American Helicopter maker, Sikorsky, with the Italian Fiat at its elbow.

The decision to design and build helicopters in this country is clearly one for the Ministry of Defence. Within the DTI, it is claimed that the MoD walked away from this responsibility earlier in the year when Westland's predicament became known. This is an oversimplification: one thing the Westland board and management were undeniably good at was obscuring the full horror for which their lack of skills is reponsible.

Sir John Cuckney, who became chariman in June, has endeavoured to stampede Westland into Sikorsky's park. This is an error of similar silliness to the Government's pretence that the furture of Westland is in the hands of Westland shareholders. The ultimate arbiter of Westland's future is the Government in the shape of the Ministry of Defence.

Its immediate fate lies with Westland's bankers, Barclays and National Westminster: they hold the rug. If they decide not to pull it, their preferred option must be the European consortium as this requires a smaller conversion of debt into preference capital.

Both the banks, employees, and, in due time, shareholders need to know whether Aerospatiale, a member of the European consortium, would withdraw existing work, as well as future contracts, from Westland if Sikorsky-Fiat wins the day.

'There is another question which may also involve the workload and thus employment. Does Sikorsky's agreement with Short Brothers in Belfast allow Sikorsky easily to transfer work on the US Black Hawk helicopter to Westland, as the American approach to Westland seems to support?

If Westland goes down the American road, so too in large measure does any capability for helicopter research and design work. That is the American practice. At least Westland, in harness with British Acrospace and GEC, both members of the European consortium, would be in a strong postion to negotiate its share of the fundamental work, as well as the simple metal bashing. With Sikorsky in the driving seat that option would not exist. British Aerospace in particular should be pushing this argument hard.

And is it not about time Mrs Thatcher put some practical steel in her commitment to the European Community? Membership and the future are not simply about our share of the Community Budget.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

P & O shares steam ahead on Sterling's property hopes

By Derek Pain

Is the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co shipping group destined to be the blue chip share of 1986? Many in the stock market were prepared to bet on such a possibiity on Christmas Eve and the shares were driven 10p higher to 438p.

What has impressed the market is P & O's adroit descent on European Ferries. It has spent £36 million buying a controlling interest in 20.8 per cent of Europferries capital.

Should P & O acquire control of Europferries it would be presented with the opportunity of taking over two leading property groups. Europferries has 29 per cent of the thrusting Stockley group which in turn is a significant shareholder in the old established Stock Conversion.

Many in the City believe that the P & O move cloaks an attempt by the company's chief, Sir Jeffrey Sterling, to get back into the property mainstream.

Sir Jeffrey made his name in the hurly-burly of the property world and, it is thought, believes his involvement with P & O could represent a long-term key to reinforcing his property role.

Europferries was unchanged at 139p on the feeling that any P & O bid would, at best, be delayed into 1986.

The shares of both Stockley and Stock Conversion barely surred.

But Ocean Transport & Trading, where P & O has a shareholding and had been expected to pressurize the board, managed a 2p gain to 182p.

The half-day Christmas Eve session, with the market making a pretence at being open for trade, was an even bigger joke than it has been in past years.

With trading almost non existent the FT 30-share index gained 2.7 points to 1,116.2 points and the FT-SE share index closed with a 9 points gain to 1,391.5 points.

Blue chips enjoying a pre-Christmas flourish included National Westminister Bank; Grand Metropolitan (on the improving outlook for its American cigarette interests) and Beecham Group where takeover talk (with Unilever as the favourite to pounce) refuses to die down.

Beer shares, as is traditional ahead of the Christmas break, enjoyed a merry session. Talk of higher broker profit forecasts lifted Guinness 8p to 303p. And Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries which trades under the Bank's and Hansons banners, progressed a further 5p to 410p.

There is a school of thought that, despite the warnings of the Monopolies Commission, Wolverhampton will soon be the subject of a bid from a big brewing group.

One suggestion is that Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, following its failure to win Matthew Brown, the Blackburn group, will turn its attention to Wolverhampton which would provide Scottish with the sort of pub spread it has long sought.

Elsewhere, SPP, which supplies fire fighting pumping systems, improved a further 2p to 149p on the disclosure that RHP had acquired a 12.6 per cent shareholding.

Reuters, the financial services and news agency group, rose 8p to 335p. About 1.5 million shares were traded in New York on Monday evening.

BAT Industries and other tobacco shares drew some comfort from the American court ruling that the R. J. Reynolds tobacco group was not liable for the death of a life-long smoker.

Mr Robert Maxwell and his consortium confirmed that they had increased their shareholding in Britannia Arrow to 18.23 per cent.

Britannia has forcibly rejected the £280 million takeover bid from Guinness Peat, a rival financial services group, which has stressed that its latest terms are final – always assuming that no other bidder arrives on the scene. Britannia Arrow shares were unchanged at 140p.

Marshall's Universal, the packing and distribution business, rose 2p to 70p after a deal to take a 49 per cent stake in Skelmersdale Packaging, which makes corrugated board and cases, for just under £1 million.

The takeover stocks turned in a mixed performance. Distillers Co. edged ahead 5p to 488p with bidders Argyll Group up 3p to 328p. Imperial Group firmed 1p to 259p and United Biscuits shaded 1p to 240p.

Shares of Asset Special Situations Trust held at 78p as British Land and associates placed 2.8 million shares at 72 3/32p. ASST is buying Guildhall Investment Management which is controlled by BL and Mr Brian Banks, the investment manager.

American Electronic Components, reversed into the best-forgotton American Oilfield Systems, is attracting support on profit expectations. Current year profits could hit £3.7 million which puts the shares, at around 26p, on an undemanding rating.

IN BRIEF

EDS out of Logica race

Electronics Data Systems of the United States has abandoned its takeover plans for Logica, the British computer software company.

EDS, a subsidiary of General Motors, had expressed an interest in Logica despite a rejection from the board who wanted to keep the business in British hands.

The way now looks clear for a group of eight City institutions to press on with plans for a £16 million rescue operation.

Under these proposals the Logica subsidiary which makes word processors in Swindon, Wiltshire, will close at the end of next month with the loss of 250 jobs.

Blue Sky deal

British Caledonian has concluded an agreement for the Rank Organisation to take over the brand name of its Blue Sky holiday company. From April 1, Rank will pay royalties to British Caledonian related to the number of passengers carried under the Blue Sky name over an agreed period. The financial details have not been disclosed.

US orders up

Durable goods orders in the United States rose by 0.9 per cent last month, after a revised 2.0 percent fall in October. The rise was mainly due to a 17.2 per cent increase in defence capital orders.

Airbus shows off its strength for battle

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The world fleet of 326 European-made Airbus airliners has now clocked up more than 3 million flight hours and carried a total of about 3 million passengers, according to figures just issued by Airbus in a bid to confirm its strength in the firercely fought battle between the world's plane makers.

Airbus said that versions of its wide-bodied A300 and A310 aircraft were now operated by 51 carriers to about 250 destinations in five continents.

Of the 326 aircraft delivered, 123 have gone to customers in Europe, 88 to the Asia/Pacific areas, 41 to the Middle East, 17 to Africa and 57 to North and South America.

This month, the consortium, in which British Aerospace ha a 20 per cent stake, logged another success in the criucial American market with the £214 million sale of 10 A320 150-seater airliners to GATX Leasing of Chicago, a company which specializes in leasing jets to airlines.

The A320, which Airbus's arch rival-Boeing of the US ha not matched with a new aircraft of its own, is due to have its maiden flight in the spring of 1987 powered by twin CFM56-5 engines produced by General Electric of the US and Snecma of France. A year later the aircraft will go into service with British Caledonian, Air France and Air Inter.

In the spring of 1989, A320s eqnipped with the new V250 engine made by a five-nation group led by Britain's Rolls-Royce and Pratt and Whitney of the US, will enter service with Cyprus Airways and Air India.

The scene is set for an intensification of the sales war between the three industry giants – Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas. The latter is fighting hard with its MD-80 range, a modernized version of the old DC-9, in the short and medium-haul sector.

But Boeing continues to dominate. This month, the company announced orders from three airlines for five 747 jumbo jets worth more than $490 million (£343 million) bringing the total number of 747s of all types ordered to 676, of which 626 have been delivered.

Boeing estimates that the world market for new airliners over the next decade wil be up to 4,000 aircraft worth $140 billion (£97 billion) of which as many as half could be for the new 150-seaters.

With this in mind, Airbus said it will begin delivering a longer range version of the A320 in the autumn of 1988.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Abbott Mead Vickers 5p Ord (180)	200
Ashley (Laura) 5p Ord (135)	184
Cable & Wireless 50p Ord (587) 300p Pd	303+2
Chancery Securities 25p Ord (63a)	69
Chem Fondlace Lynch 5p Ord (86a)	86
Chetwynd Stretch 5p Ord (120)	128
China & Eastn Inv $0.05 (71p)	65–3
Cranswick Mill 10p Ord (95a)	97
Crests 5p Ord (74a)	82
Dialene 25p Ord (128a)	133
German Sec Inv $1 Ord (100) 50p Pd	49
Grunyte Surface 10p Ord (56a)	63
Inspp 10p Ord (55)	50
J S Pathology 10p Ord (160a)	231+1
Jacques Vert 10p Ord (120a)	123
Lexicon Inc $0.01 Com Stk (115)	1118
Merrvale Moore 5p Ord (115)	123
Monks & Crane 10p Ord (a)	81
Notank System 5p Ord (90a)	96
S A C International 10p Ord (100a)	115
SPP 10p Ord (125)	149+2
Snowdon & Bridge 10p Ord (97a)	100
Sterling Publishing 5p Ord (57a)	69
Straus Inv (100)	99+1
Technical Component 25p Ord (130a)	195
Underwoods 10p Ord (180*)	187

Rights Issues	
Barham (110) Nil Pd	8 prem
Harrwells (68) Nil Pd	8 prem
Moorsleigh (475) Nil Pd	45 prem–10
Smith Bros (165)	6 prem

Issue price in parentheses, a Unlisted Securities, *by tender.

ADVERTISEMENT

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11½%
Adam & Company	11½%
BCCI	11½%
Citibank Savings †	12¾%
Consolidated Crds	11½%
Continental Trust	11½%
Co-operative Bank	11½%
C. Hoare & Co	11½%
Lloyds Bank	11½%
Nat Westminster	11½%
Royal Bank Scotland	11½%
TSB	11½%
Citibank NA	11½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

APPOINTMENTS

Grand Metropolitan: Mr G. J. Bull, Mr I. A. Martin and Mr C. Strowger have joined the board.

United International Pictures: Mr Ted McLean is to become senior vice-president of finance and administration.

SRI International: Mr John Kenney becomes director of the Systems Consulting Centre and Mr Peter Weisshuhn director of the Industry Consulting Centre.

Hawker Siddeley: Mr R. H. Savage has been appointed commercial director of Mitrlees Blackstone (Stockport). Mr C. L. Smith becomes industrial sales director.

Britoil plc

Small shareholder bonus

This is a notice to any person who was allocated 2,000 or fewer shares in Britoil plc under the Offer for Sale dated 10 November 1982 made by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and who continued until 30 November 1985 to be the sole registered holder of that number of shares.

National Westminster Bank acting as agent for HM Government has issued to holders who, on 30 November 1985, appeared from the Register of Members of Britoil plc to be eligible for the bonus, a Bonus Notification and Application Form.

Completed Application Forms must be received by National Westminster Bank not later than 15 January 1986, failing which any entitlement to the bonus will be lost.

If you think that you are eligible for the bonus but have not received a Bonus Notification and Application Form, contact National Westminster Bank plc, Registrar's Department, PO Box 82, 37 Broad Street, Bristol BS99 7NH. (Tel: 0272-263091)

Britoil

Britannia Arrow Shareholders:

Guinness Peat's increased offer is final†

Accept Now

*The offer values Britannia at over £260 million.**

It is generous

You can now choose between 140p in cash or more in shares and Loan Notes.**

Full value for your Shares

The offer is open until Friday, 3rd January 1986.

Only 7 days to go

If you want cash we must have received your acceptance form by 3.30 p.m. on Friday, 3rd January 1986.

Make your choice now

The offer is final†– it will not be increased again.
Avoid delay– post your acceptance now.

Guinness Peat Group plc

Ours is the only offer

†Guinness Peat's increased offer is final: it will not be further increased and will close if it has not become or been declared unconditional as to acceptances on or before 3rd January 1986. Guinness Peat reserves the right, however, to increase the Increased Offer and/or extend the closing date and/or time if a competitive situation arises on or before that date.

*Based on Guinness Peat's offer of 15 ordinary shares plus 80p nominal of Loan Notes for every 8 Britannia ordinary shares. Guinness Peat's ordinary shares closed at 70p on 20th December 1985 (the latest practicable date before the production of this advertisement) and the Loan Notes are taken at par.

‡The cash payment of 140p is based on the cash alternative value of 137p per Britannia ordinary share plus Britannia's forecast final dividend of 3.0p (net) per share.

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of Guinness Peat Group plc. The Directors of Guinness Peat Group plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. The Directors of Guinness Peat Group plc accept responsibility accordingly.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	ELECTRICALS	
1	Apricot Computers	
2	Dale Elect	
3	Tunstall Telecom	
4	Farnell Elect	
5	Electrocomp Rentals	
a	Atlantic Comp	
7	Auto Sec	
8	Micro BS	
9	Cable & Wireless	
10	Bowthorpe	
	INDUSTRIALS S–Z	
11	Siebe	
12	Tiphook	
13	Transcontinental	
14	Smiths Ind	
15	Wills Gp	
16	TSL Thermal	
17	Swire Pacific 'A'	
18	Whatman Reeve	
19	Scott Hetitable	
20	Shiloh	
	INDUSTRIALS A–D	
21	Black Arrow	
22	Brassey	
23	Christy Hunt	
24	BET Dfd	
25	Broken Hill	
26	Dentsrd Stamping	
27	BTR	
28	Davies & Met 'A'	
29	Davy	
30	Barlow Rand	
	INDUSTRIALS L–R	
31	RHP	
32	Ratcliffs (Gt Bridge)	
33	Lawtex	
34	Pearson	
35	Norcros	
36	Reckitt & Colman	
37	Pilkington	
38	Marshalls Univ	
39	Lilleshall	
40	Ranrome Sims	
©	Times Newspapers Limited Your Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 23. Dealings End, Jan 10. § Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 20.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio
© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for
+38 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
240	172	Aberdeen Constr	222		10.5	4.7	13.9
290	224	Amec	234		13.7	7.0	8.9
68	29	Arnott's	56		0.1e	0.3	8.8
82	62	Attwoods	115	+2	5.7	5.0	10.5
380	208	BPB Industries	330		11.8	3.3	10.6
333	204	Baggeridge Brick	296	-1	8.8	3.3	10.6
139	64	Barratt Devs	124		10.9	8.8	
94	16	Blue Circle	87		4.0	4.6	4.8
151	113	Bellway	139		10.9	7.8	14.2
70	50	Benford Concrete	62		3.5	5.6	22.6
67	51	Ben Bros	71		4.4	6.2	10.6
555	342	Bovis Hldgs	550		32.0	5.8	10.7
608	468	Blue Circle	578	+2	28.8	5.0	7.8
240	194	Breedon&Cloud Hill	236	-2	13.5	5.8	28.4
79	55	Brickhouse Dudley	73		4.8	6.6	12.4
19	11	Br Dredging	16		1.5	9.3	13.6
22	11	Brown&Jackson	14				9.7
63	55	Brownlee	55		4.4	8.0	6.2
63	54	Bryant	57		4.7	5.4	11.0
180	20	Burnett & Hallam			12.5		
155	145	Calestrood Robey	150		4.4	3.0	28.0
86	55	Cement-Roadstone	86		3.0	3.5	
70	43	Conder Grp	53		2.3	4.3	27.3
528	336	Costain	478	-2	22.1	4.6	10.7
230	194	Countryside	210		8.2e	2.8	8.5
124	84	Crouch (Derek)	122		7.9	6.5	28.7
116	68	Crow (George)	104		8.1	7.8	6.4
61	45	Douglas (AM)	73		2.5	3.4	13.9
71	58	Enst	64		4.4	6.9	10.3
113	68	Fab	84		4.6	4.7	12.8
52	34	Do 'A'	50		4.2	7.3	7.8
96	65	Finlan Gp	65				
287	117	French Kier	267		8.8	3.7	13.8
78	54	Galliford	71		3.3	7.0	17.3
116	103	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	110		5.3	7.2	37.3
270	204	Gleeson (MJ)	264		7.7	2.9	9.1
119	89	HAT	102	+1	5.4	5.3	10.6
84	24	Halliad Ber	61	+1			8.8
46	33	Hawden-Stuart	42		2.3	5.5	8.5
177	114	Heywood Williams	152		8.9	5.8	8.9
446	281	Higgs & Hill	436		18.6	4.2	11.8
270	178	Ibstock Johnsen	242		9.1	4.3	10.9
528	280	Jarvis (J) & Sons	265		25.0	9.4	9.1
248	139	Laing (J)	236		8.9	3.7	10.4
248	193	Do 'A'	235		8.9	3.8	10.7
98	87	Lawrence (Walter)	78		4.3	5.5	8.7
78	58	Lilley (FJG)	75		5.3	7.1	11.4
398	196	Lovell (Y J)	296		10.8	3.4	10.9
138	104	Magnet & South	138		5.7	4.1	14.1
202	161	Manders	185		10.9	5.9	11.7
188	110	Marshalls (Halifax)	170		7.1b	4.2	12.8
107	74	May & Hassell	99		5.4e	5.4	
238	232	McAlpine (Alfred)	310		16.1	5.2	10.5
185	112	Meyer Int	184		7.7	4.2	10.2
26	14	Miller (Stanley)	27		0.7	2.6	
134	103	Morris (A)	107		8.3	8.7	14.4
148	138	Mowlem (John)	142		10.6	7.5	21.7
865	600	Newarthill	850		15.7	1.9	15.1
165	143	Nottingham Brick	160		9.3	5.8	11.6
800	600	Pearce (CH) Sons	700		11.1	1.5	13.1
98	86	Persimmon	98		5.8	5.7	8.8
150	85	Phoenix Timber	98		4.3	4.4	37
200	169	Pochins	265	+15	18.4	6.5	6.3
550	342	RMC	470		18.9	4.0	10.5
235	145	Redland	306	-1	13.5	4.6	12.5
177	138	Roberts Adlard	138		8.9	6.4	13.3
225	145	Rutterfold	186		11.1	5.9	9.9
273	152	Rugby Cement	197		8.9b	6.4	10.1
97	82	SGB	246		14.3b	5.8	7.4
		Sharpe & Fisher	94		3.2	3.4	14.7
79	52	Smart (J)	72	+1	9.2	8.6	15.3
227	174	Tarmac	214	-2	11.7	5.1	15.6
478	231	Taylor Woodrow	478		21.4	4.5	10.2
198	148	Tilbury Group	148		7.0	4.7	12.8
345	225	Travis & Arnold	332		11.3e	3.4	11.5
97	67	Trent	89	+1	4.5	5.1	10.7
243	167	Turriff	150	+3	10.6	7.1	39.5
242	135	Vibroplant	188		12.5	6.8	8.2
262	173	Ward	246	+2	9.6	4.0	12.4
98	58	Warrington (T)	98		5.7e	9.8	6.6
213	173	Wates Build	178	-5	8.0	5.6	14.3
198	135	Western Bros	198		1.4e	2.2	12.8
48	28	Wiggins	45				
324	173	Wilson (Connolly)	324		4.5	1.4	16.9
141	97	Wimpey (George)	118		4.6	3.9	11.2

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
350	224	AKZO N/V Bearer	330e		40p	11.4	
258	121	Allied Colloids	172	+2	3.2	1.9	16.1
380	273	Amersham	288		8.5	3.1	14.0
250	160	Anchor Chemical	180		6.1	3.2	7.0
73	51	Bayer DM50	1795		70p	9.2	
120	100	Blagden	112		10.2	9.2	8.4
134	104	Brent Chems	115		6.1	4.5	15.2
57	41	Br Benzol	55	+1			61.7
117	78	Br Tar Products	107		5.7b	5.3	15.5
117	79	Canning (W)	85		5.1	10.0	12.6
254	224	Coalite	254		9.5	3.6	13.7
131	68	Coates Bros	144	-2	6.6	4.6	8.7
169	113	Do 'A'	116		6.6	5.7	7.8
151	116	Cory (Horace)	151		0.7	0.5	21.6
		Croda	126		10.0	7.9	13.3
		Do Dfd	103				10.4
158	126	Ellis & Everard	152		4.1	4.9	15.2
239	178	Fisons-Moreep	215	+1	11.5	5.6	9.5
137	96	Halstead (James)	125		5.7	4.6	9.7
486	318	Hickson	393		21.4	5.4	7.8
97	76½	Hoechst DM50	97p				
664	530	Imp Chem Ind	730		44.5	6.1	7.2
363	278	Laporte	343		10.5	3.1	17.4
121	84	Leigh	109		4.7	4.7	18.0
186	144	Phrma	186		10.7p	5.8	10.2
83	63	Rosebrook Hldgs.	74		3.6	4.1	15.2
132	123	Ronzoil	132		3.2	2.3	18.5
398		SHA BPD	398				
239	162	Wolsenholme Rink	213		11.1	5.2	9.9
87	56	Yorkshire Chem	74		2.5e	3.4	12.3

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
537	175	AB Elect	185		11.4	6.2	13.6
334	93	Arcotrol	97	+2	1.3	0.7	14.2
283	63	Apricot Computers	214	+2	2.1	2.9	5.8
328	218	Arlen	268				
305	216	Atlantic Comp	270	+5	2.4	1.1	11.7
273	215	Audio Fidelity	260				16.5
188	45	AUJ 3s.	50		1.4	2.8	42.6
		BKS	98		2.4p	4.0	6.8

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
139	90	Allied Irish	135	+2	5.2	4.6	40.4
96	66	Ambassador (Hanny)	96		18.0	7.5	
194	150	Anglo Nat 2	194				
9	5	Bank of Ireland	9				
355	270	Bank of Scotland	355		17.0	4.7	
674	500	Barclays	674		15.0	2.2	14.9
512	380	Bk Lwds Ireland	512		15.0	4.6	14.5
512	380	Bk of Scotland	512	+2	24.0	5.1	8.7
		Barclays					

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
484	368	Bowthorpe	394	+2	8.2	2.1	19.1
288	104½	BT Telecom 80p P	187		3.6	5.3	12.3
97	70	Brown Boveri Kent	80	-1	3.5	4.5	10.9
31	10	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	11		1.9	17.5	25.6
99	57	CASE	157		1.8	1.4	11.3
558	440	Cable & Wireless	560	+5	13.6p	2.3	19.6
378	185	Cambridge Elec	238		10.2	4.3	11.0
183	138	CAP Gp	183				8.5
188	128	Chloride	186				
		Do 7½% CPF	148				
238	133	Comcap	238		3.7	0.8	15.8
278	200	Corry Elect	271		4.2	1.5	25.8
240	95	Crystalate	165		6.1	4.2	8.8
85	61	Dale Elect	67	-1	6.4	9.6	23.3
168	87	Datasery	168		1.8	0.6	
37	14	Dewhurst 'A'	31		1.2	3.8	14.0
290	245	Domino	283		12.4	4.3	16.5
45	31	Dowding & Mills	45		2.0	4.4	14.3
238	134	Dutton	180		4.6	2.2	19.2
265	225	Electrocomponents	265		7.9	2.0	24.1
38	38	Electronic Mach	38		1.0b	1.8	38.0
247	247	Electronic Rentals	247	+5	4.6p	1.8	16.5
243	156	Emess Lighting	243		7.9	3.2	26.0
288	238	Eurotherm	288		8.1	2.1	18.0
211	164	Farnell Elect	211	+1	2.9	1.4	24.5
164	104	Ferranti	162	-2	2.3	1.5	18.6
156	88	First Castle Elec	153		3.1	2.1	14.8
341	216	Ferguson Tech	341				24.8
230	160	GEC	164	-2	5.6	3.5	11.2
168	98	Gravenor	164		5.2	3.4	8.2
78	78	Highland Elect	78		3.6	3.8	12.0
148	138	Hillsdown	148		8.2	5.4	10.1
350	243	Int Signal & Control	350		1.0	0.3	
200	130	Jones Stroud	198		10.0	5.1	9.4
216	95	Kode	110	+5	7.1	6.5	9.4
341	216	Lec Refrigeration	316		17.9	5.2	8.0
200	114	Logica	134	-2	1.4	1.1	14.5
220	150	MK Elect	273		14.6	5.3	9.0
220	34	Micro Focus	375		2.8	1.0	35.0
34	34	Micro BS	74	+2	2.5	3.4	11.7
970	100	Micro Focus	140				
89	89	Middleton Elec	45		4.0	8.8	33.8
94	89	Murray Elect	91		0.1	0.2	
45	16	Newman	32		1.1	3.5	9.5
270	170	Newmark (Louis)	265		10.5	7.1	12.9
90	70½	Norcros	90		7.5	10.3	15.8
172	72	Oceanics	111		1.1	3.7	5.5
466	238	Oxford Instruments	398		2.6	0.5	21.4
58	42	Pelbow	51		1.6e	3.1	18.7
30	25	Perkins	25		1.5	9.3	9.9
150p	95p	Philips Fin 5½%	£147	+9	575	3.9	
195	140	Philips Lamps N/V	£195	-5			
170	115	Plessey	170		7.5	4.4	9.3
155	111½	Do 'A' Ltd Voting	138		7.5	5.5	7.5
214	174	Plessey	174		6.3	3.6	13.9
220p	175	Do ADR 25	£175				
188	85	Promac	188		5.1	2.9	15.7
283	223	Quest Automation	283				11.0
208	126	Racal Elect	156	-2	4.3	2.8	18.0
208	142	Rotaflex	185		4.7	2.5	19.1
503	362	Schlobs (GH)	396		9.5	2.4	10.1
88	71	Shorrock	72		2.1	3.0	15.5
146	21	Sound Diffusion	34		0.8	1.8	6.3
197	137	STC	197		6.5	4.1	9.8
119	74	Stone Int'l	157		0.5	0.7	31.5
288	188	System Designers	288				
215p	167p	TEK	£195		10.0	5.7	12.7
188	142	Telephone Rentals	175		9.0	5.1	16.5
484	301	Thorn EMI	397		25.0	6.3	14.2
185	149	Thorpe (FW)	180		6.8	3.1	8.9
198	139	Tunstall Telecom	188	+5	2.4	1.3	19.6
358	258	UEI	358		7.5	3.7	16.1
308	173	Unitech	240		8.1	3.4	12.8
350	226	Utd Leasing	350		5.3	2.0	8.3
350	150	Utd Scientific	350		9.1	4.6	12.8
350	244	VG Instruments	330		2.7	0.8	28.6
258	123	Volex	228		11.4	5.0	9.5
64	46	Wassam Selection	58		3.9	6.5	12.4
100	46	Wilkenson Elec	98		3.9	3.8	12.8
325	228	Wholesale Fitting	250		9.8	3.8	12.8

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
334	210	Abingworth	226		18	8.8	
193	126	Allsen Hume	177		11.8	6.2	7.4
320	200	Antofagasta	300		20.0	6.7	4.8
151	70	Bendey Tech	108		6		
341	267p	Camellia	320		15.7	0.8	
218	159	Candover	210		2.8	1.4	823
39	10	Centaway	16	-2			
213	126	Equity & Gen	178		1.8	7.2	8.1
213	126	Hambro	193		10.8	5.2	27.7
193	91	Ivory & Sime	179		8.1	3.6	287
175	115	Mercantile	153		8.8	5.8	21.9
47	37	Nat Home Loans	37				
48	38	Do 3%	£38		600	21.1	

Financial trusts, page 17

FOODS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
168	130	ASDA-MFI	142	-3	3.8	2.8	18.1
27	18	Alpine Drinks	23	-3	2.8	10.9	
345	253	Argyll	337	-4	9.7	3.0	20.0
370	194	Att Food	368		9.0	3.1	12.1
242	182	Associ Fisheries	242		3.9	1.6	15.3
570	440	Avana	557		16.8	3.0	17.4
288	185	Banks (Sidney C)	240		14.3	6.0	7.1
188	138	Barr (AG)	230		10.7	4.7	15.2
158	140	Bejam Foods	158		9.7	6.2	9.8
128	66½	Bellays	103		3.0	2.9	12.2
195	140	Bejam	162		5.4	3.3	18.8
99	99	Bickford Conf	97		2.4	2.5	23.2
37½	37½	Br Vending (BVI)	55		1.7	3.1	13.5
131	131	Cadbury-Schweppp	157		8.4	5.4	10.9
188	188	Cairns Milling	188		8.6	5.4	8.7
188	188	Cifferns Dairies	188		9.0	4.8	10.2
188	115	Do 'A'	148		9.6	8.4	11.2
315	119	Collins	278				
272	188	Dee	272		9.7	3.6	28.1
147	94	Fisher (Albert)	147	-2	4.3	2.9	10.0
252	193	Fitch Lovell	246		13.9	5.6	18.6
313	238	Glass Glover	313		4.9p	2.1	18.6
248	248	Hazlewood Foods	248		11.9p	4.8	22.4
88	58	Hazlo	88		4.7	1.5	27.7
188	138	Hillsdown Hldgs	188	+3	5.3	2.8	21.5
98	52	Home Farm	98	+3	4.6	5.9	8.0
188	188	Ireland Frozen	188	+3	9.0	4.8	10.2
178	138	Jacksons Stores	178		6.9	3.8	15.8
68	47½	Lees (John J)	68	-4	2.1	3.1	12.9
47	47	Lovell (GP)	47		4.3	7.8	28.3
690	494	Lyons (WN)	690		17.7	2.6	20.2
690	534	Matthews (Bernard)	690		11.1	2.0	36.5
100	79½	Meat Trade Supp	97		7.5	8.2	13.8
100	94	Morrison (W)	154	-2	1.7	1.0	24.7
188	183	Needler	183		5.1	4.6	12.8
378	197	Nichols (JN) (Vimto)	233		7.3	3.4	18.4
88	67½	Normens	88		2.6	3.8	15.1
284	284	Nthn Foods	284		9.5	3.6	15.3
138	130	Nurdin & Peacock	138		5.2	3.4	16.8
137	125	Park Foods	137		5.1	3.8	13.9
365	288	RHM	365		7.5	4.5	10.5
447	348	Ranches Mac	447		16.5	4.9	15.5
288	288	Sainsbury (J)	288		10.8	1.8	24.3
145	137	Sathesan (Chstr)	137		4.1	3.2	18.7
178	20	Scimpenor	156				96.3
221	141	Tate & Lyle	326		31.4	9.6	10.4
230	219	Tesco	230		7.4	3.2	19.5
203	140	Unigate	203	-3	12.4	6.9	13.9
184	184	Utd Biscuits	240		10.4	4.3	12.0
198	90	Watson & Philp	146		8.3	5.7	17.2

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
408	275	Grand Met	408	+4	14.3	3.5	11.4
240	196	Kennedy Brookes	237		17	7.2	12.2
265	241	Ladbroke	252	-1	15.0	5.9	10.4
485	348	Lon Park Hotels	485		11.9p	2.5	51.5
96	77	Mount Charlotte	88		1.8	2.1	16.2
112	88	Prince Of W Hotels	88		2.1	2.5	15.3
415	352	Queens Moat	415		2.2p	0.5	18.5
352	278	Savoy Hotels 'A'	378		3.6	0.9	18.5
189	119	Stakis	189		7.5	3.9	14.3
		Trusthouse Forte	158		7.9	4.4	23.3

INDUSTRIALS A–D

1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
185	118	AAH	178		9.7	5.5	14.9
297	182	AGB Research	218		9.3	4.3	23.3
218	116	ASV	202		8.2	4.1	11.4
140	116	APH	140		16.7	8.9	27.8
146	136	Abercrom	140		8.9	6.4	9.7
180	136	Advanced	180		11.1	6.2	11.5
146	136	Alexandra 'A' wsd	146		7.1	4.9	15.8
146	136	Amber Ind	146		7.1	4.9	15.8
146	136	Amberley Hldgs	146		7.1	4.9	15.8
146	136	Ameroon	146		7.1	4.9	15.8
146	136	Armour	146		7.1	4.9	15.8
364	364	Ashley de Lacey	364		28.9	7.9	12.6
146	136	Ashley	146				41.9
146	136	Ass Br Eng Bf	146		11.4	6.9	
146	136	Ass Paper Mill	146		15.7	10.6	16.8
146	136	Aurora	146		11b	2.9	18.8
146	136	Avon Rubber	146		9.1	5.2	9.4
146	136	Axmine Metal	146		8.1	5.2	9.7
146	136	BBA	146		25.7	17.6	15.5
146	136	BET Dfd	146		21.9	5.7	8.8
146	136	BETEC	146		9.1	3.1	10.8
146	136	BOC	146		21.9	15.0	9.7
146	136	BTR	146		10.5	7.2	21.2
146	136	Babcock	146		11.9	8.2	9.7
146	136	Bailey (CH)	146				
146	136	Bailey (NPH)	146		10.2	6.2	9.0
146	136	Baker Perkins	146		10.2	4.8	9.0
146	136	Barlo Ind	146		7.9	5.1	14.8
146	136	Barlow	146				
146	136	Barlow Rand	146		2.9		
146	136	Barrow Hepburn	146		24	6.6	12.2
146	136	Barton Transport	146		35.7	14.7	5.4
146	136	Bayrod (Charles)	146		22	6.7	54.0
146	136	Beacon Cleare	146		24	6.7	6.8
146	136	Beaufard	146		6.8	7.1	8.7
146	136	Beecham	146		18.1	4.8	14.4
146	136	Bellair Cosmetics	146				
146	136	Benlor	146		1.6	0.3	16.5
146	136	Bensard (S&W)	146		15.0	9.3	4.8
146	136	Bentalls	146		9.1	6.2	8.5
146	136	Berisford	146		5.5	3.8	15.1
146	136	Bestwood	146		8.9p	3.5	43.9
146	136	Bevan (DP)	146		3.9	2.6	8.3
146	136	Bibby (J)	146		9.1	6.2	15.9
146	136	Biddle	146		14.3	10.0	5.1
146	136	Billam (J)	146		4.0	2.8	6.1
146	136	Bernd Cuisinart	146		4.8	3.3	6.8
146	136	Birmingham Mint	146		6.3	7.8	11.6
146	136	Black Arrow	146		5.4	3.7	22.5
146	136	Black (Peter)	146		2.3	1.0	21.2
146	136	Blackwood Hodge	146				18.7
146	136	Blundell-Perrin	146		10.9p	5.2	22.6
146	136	Bodycote	170		8.9p	5.0	8.5
146	136	Bowser McConnell	146		16.4	8.6	11.4
146	136	Boots	146		9.3	3.6	16.0
146	136	Boulton (Wm)	146				
146	136	Bowater	146		12.5	4.1	11.2
146	136	Bowater Inc	146				
146	136	Brakhwaite Grp	146		13.0p	16.3	
146	136	Brammer	146		17.9	5.6	16.5
146	136	Brengtsen	146		3.2	4.5	9.4
146	136	Brickland Co	146		2.1	6.5	16.1
146	136	Bridon	146				
146	136	Bristol-Gundry	146		6.1	5.4	8.6
146	136	Br Bldg & Eng Appl	146		7.1	5.4	8.1
146	136	Br Steam	146		9.6	5.8	11.4
146	136	Br Syphon	146		3.8	3.6	27.2
146	136	Br Vita	146		9.3	4.7	8.1
146	136	Brockhouse Indl	146				
146	136	Brooke Bond	146		7.8	4.8	7.5
146	136	Brooke St Bureau	146		6.7	3.9	17.7
146	136	Brooks Tex	146		3.4	2.3	8.2
146	136	Brown & Tawse	146		9.6	6.1	10.4
146	136	Brown (John)	146				
146	136	Brunton (Wm)	146		4.3	2.9	11.5
146

WALL STREET

	Dec 24	Dec 23
AMR	39⅞	39⅝
ASA	35⅝	35⅞
Allied Signal	45¾	46⅛
Allied Stores	66⅝	67¼
Allis Chalmers	¾	¾
Alcoa	38⅝	38⅞
Amax Inc	13⅝	12⅞
Amerada Hess	26¾	27¼
Am Brands	56⅞	57⅝
Am Broadcast	121	121
Am Can	59⅝	59⅞
Am Cyanamid	57¾	57⅞
Am Elec Power	23⅞	23⅝
Am Express	51⅝	52⅛
Am Home	62¾	63⅛
Am Motors	2¼	2⅜
Am Standard	35⅝	36⅜
Am Telephone	24½	24⅝
Amoco	61⅞	62
Amsco Steel	9	9
Asarco	16⅜	16½
Ashland Oil	57¾	57¾
Atlntic Richfield	61½	62
Avon Products	27½	27⅝
Bankers Tst NY	73⅜	73½
Bantam	15⅛	15⅛
Bankamerica	15	15

هكذا من الأصل

Football: familiar face moves into contention for first division championship as leading pair let their guards slip

Manchester City survive late Liverpool onslaught to record unexpected win

By Clive White

Pundits who once described this season's championship as a one-horse race only later to concede the obvious chances of **Liverpool** as well as **Manchester United**, might have felt the urge yesterday to reconsider still further their forecasts as a familiar face came into view. With the leading three clubs all losing and **Chelsea's** match postponed, **Everton**, the champions, moved menacingly into fifth place with a significant victory over United.

It was a victory which confirmed their own belief that the championship is not lost yet. They are now six points behind the leaders. For the joint favourites, United and Liverpool, it was the second time in five days that they have both let their guard slip. In United's case they dropped both hands and found themselves on the seat of their pants as Everton, following Arsenal's lead on Saturday, gave them the old one-two and a third for good measure.

For Liverpool, who dropped two points at home to Newcastle United last week, their 1–0 defeat at Maine Road was their first reverse since losing to Queen's Park Rangers on October 5. It was the City's first win over Liverpool since Boxing Day, 1981. In mitigation City's winner came against the run of play. It arrived on the hour, seconds after Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool's player-manager, had made a rare appearance by coming on as substitute for Walsh. Walsh had just been booked for a foul on May.

The goal was scored by Wilson. City's midfield player, after a shot by Davies had spun across the face of a disorganized Liverpool defence. McMahon hit the crossbar in one of several replies by the Merseysiders. Beglin, of Liverpool, and McNab were booked after wrestling with each other on the ground as emotions and tempers heightened. A crowd of 35,585 was the other good news for City.

Liverpool's defeat meant that Chelsea had missed a chance to go into second position. Stamford Bridge was one of the eight Canon League venues hit by the heavy rain in the south. **Sheffield Wednesday**, in turn, missed their chance to snuggle up close to Chelsea. They drew 2-2 at home to **Newcastle** – another surprisingly good away performance by the Geordies. Indeed Newcastle were moving towards only their third win in 65 years at Hillsborough when Thompson equalized with 10 minutes remaining.

Chamberlain, though, had revitalised Wednesday long before that when he came on as substitute for Snodin, a defender (Wednesday usually have one to spare). Newcastle might have been disturbed by the sight of Megson playing against them. The Newcastle player is on loan to Wednesday.

Luton Town's 2-1 victory over West **Bromwich Albion** at the Hawthorne still leaves them in eighth place. No matter how fast they run they never seem to get anywhere. They have had a big gap to close in the middle of the table. Harford scored the winner after young North had given Luton the lead in the fourth minute.

If Tottenham Hotspur were feeling unusually pleased with themselves after their morning victory has brought West **Ham United's** run screeching to a halt, I doubt whether they could have been more full of festive joy than Leworthy. The former Spur signed for **Oxford United** in a £175,000 deal on Christmas Eve and scored two goals on an unforgettable Boxing Day debut as his new club beat **Southampton** 3-0, lift their collective spirits higher above the gloom of the bottom three. Aldridge scored the third, having missed a penalty.

Alan Smith was another whose brace of goals brought cheer to a struggling side, inconsistent **Leicester City**, who beat **Aston Villa** 3-1, a defeat which leaves Villa in nineteenth place. Smith, included in an England under-21 squad last year, has now scored 13 goals in the last 15 matches. Walters, Villa's golascorer, missed a penalty when the score was 2-1.

If **Ipswich Town** failed to pull themselves out of the quicksand at the bottom, their victory at Coventry with a goal three minutes from time by D'Avray will have given their confidence something to feed on. It was only their second away win in the league since September.

Portsmouth fell 2-1 at home to south coast rivals **Brighton** for whom Connor scored the winner.



Iron grip: West Ham's Frank McAvennie ensnares Chris Waddle (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Everton's threat gathering pace

By Peter Ball

Everton 3
Manchester Utd 1

Three times this season Everton have beaten Manchester United in phoney wars, once in the FA Charity Shield and twice in the Screen Sport Super Cup. Yesterday, in the real thing, they did so again, and their superiority was so marked that a match which began with passionate intensity ended almost in tranquillity.

Liverpool's defeat at Maine Road means that United will retain their leadership of the first division into the New Year, whatever happens on Saturday, but the sound of "champions, champions" echoing around Goodison Park must have rung ominously in their ears. Everton are now only six points adrift, and their performance yesterday suggested that the threat from Merseyside is gathering pace.

In spite of a deceptively promising opening, United were in serious contention for only half an hour. Somewhat fortunate to escape an early penalty, they took the lead after 14 minutes as Everton's recent practice of conceding an early advantage caught up with them again.

It was a well worked goal. Whiteside, whose glowering presence promised that the battle for midfield would be fierce, began the move. Olsen helped it on to the overlapping Gibson and Stapleton arrived to slide the full back's low cross in at the near post.

It was United's best move, and their best moment. Everton equalized four minutes later as Sharp scrambled home Sheedy's corner and battle was joined in earnest.

It did not take long to become clear that there could only be one outcome. Even Whiteside could not do it all in United's lightweight midfield, and he was at times left floundering as Bracewell, Steven and Heath pounced like sharks into tackles and swept forward with a series of quick, vivid passes.

It was too much for McGrath and Hogg, who spent the afternoon desperately trying to cope with the pace and eagerness of Lineker and Sharp as they were pulled apart. Gibson's early forays forward were soon a distant memory as Everton poured forward remorselessly on a broad front.

Signs of United's problems were the bookings of Olsen and McGrath as they hacked at their tormentors, and although amidst all the sound and fury Strachan and Gidman once extricated themselves from difficulty with a one-two of immaculate composure, their example was lost on their increasingly beleaguered colleagues.

Somehow they resisted the siege until with the interval approaching the pressure told. Another Sheedy corner proved their undoing, it was cleared under duress only for Stevens to return it for Lineker to direct his header back down across Bailey.

United were down, and three minutes after half-time they were laid to rest as their defenders' unhappiness was again exploited. Lineker sped clear of Hogg, and although Sharp failed to connect with his cross, as McGrath left his post in pursuit, Sheedy's return gave sharp a free header from six yards. More than United's defence had been exposed at that moment, and their efforts to recover had little conviction.

EVERTON: N Southall, G Stevens, N Pointon, K Radcliffe, P van den Hauwe, A Heath, T Steven, G Lineker, G Sharp, P Bracewell, K Sheedy.
MANCHESTER UTD: G Bailey, J Gidman, C Gibson, N Whiteside, P McGrath, G Hogg, C Blackmore, G Strachan, M Hughes, F Stapleton, J Olsen (sub: N Wood).
Referee: D Allison (Lancaster).

Evergreen's hardy annual fells West Ham

By Stuart Jones

Tottenham Hotspur 1
West Ham United 0

The wind was powerful enough to invert umbrellas, the rain fell without ceasing and the sky was so dark that at the 11.30 kick-off time it looked more appropriate for p.m. than a.m. "If anybody had woken up this morning with a hangover and looked out of the window, that would have made up their minds." Peter Shreeve, Tottenham's Hotspur's manager, said. Only 33,835 people, albeit his club's biggest crowd of the season by a comfortable margin, either disagreed or awoke with a clear head.

None of those who ignored the foul weather will have regretted the decision. The ball may have been blown as though it was a table football and everything inside White Hart Lane may have been drenched but there was more than enough to admire in this traditional Boxing Day derby. "It was a marvellous game between two footballing teams," Shreeve stated and few could have argued.

It reached a dramatic climax as well. West Ham United were only five minutes away from extending their unbeaten sequence to 19 League fixtures, a club record that John Lyall admitted was perhaps sitting too heavily on their minds, when Tottenham combined for a move of 12 passes, a dozen pearls strung together from one side of the pitch to the other. Walford might have broken it but there can be no dispute about the fine precision of the final two touches.

After Paul Allen, a late substitute for Ardiles had retrieved a seemingly lost cause on the right, Hughton released Hoddle on the left. "When he picks out people inside the box," Shreeve said, "it is always dangerous." The colleague he selected was Perryman, closing in at the near post. From the unexpected low cross, the Tottenham captain flicked in the winner.

By a strange coincidence, Perryman, who is now in his 19th season at Tottenham, first scored for his club on Boxing Day in 1969. "Since then I've claimed one goal and only one goal a season," he said later. "That will mean that first division defences can rest easy for the rest of this campaign."

Lyall conceded that "one moment of quality from Hoddle was enough to end our run". Although the aptly named Gale overshadowed Martin and was the firmest figure in West Ham's stubborn defence, their attack was so neatly and ably controlled, particularly by Mabbutt, that they produced not a single attempt throughout the entertaining ebb and flow.

McAvennie, the prolific Scotsman who has claimed twice as many goals as Tottenham's leading marksman, was notably subdued. Mabbutt, whose outstanding display was witnessed by England's manager, deserves most of the credit for that. He showed Bobby Robson that he can perform in the wet of North London if not in the airless heat of Mexico.

Waddle, another England international, who was at times dazzling over-indulgent, finished with a badly bruised shin as natural enthusiasm threatened to boil over into illegitimate exuberance towards the end and Falco joined Thomas, Hughton and the unlucky Gale in the referee's notebook. After an x-ray examination, Waddle was considered doubtful for tomorrow's match at Chelsea.

Neither Orr nor Devonshire, both of whom are suffering from jarred ankles, are certain to be fit for West Ham's home game against Southampton. Lyall hopes they will be. After being beaten for the first time since their visit to Manchester United on August 26, he wants his side to break their tradition of always coming down with the Christmas decorations.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: R Clemence, D Thomas, C Hughton, G Stevens, G Mabbutt, S Perryman, O Ardiles (sub: P Allen), M Falco, C Allen, G Hoddle, C Waddle.
WEST HAM UNITED: P Parkes, R Stewart, S Walford, A Gale, A Martin, A Devonshire, M Ward, F McAvennie, A Dickens, A Cottee, N Orr.
Referee: K Barratt (West Midlands).

Third division

Reading widen lead to 19 points

The ever widening gap between Reading and the remaining third division promotion contenders grew to 19 points yesterday with their 1-0 victory at Bournemouth. They were one of only two clubs among the top eight to win as Plymouth Argyle and York City lost. Blackpool drew and Derby County, Gillingham and Brentford were unable to play because of the wet weather.

Reading achieves their nineteenth League victory in 23 matches thanks to a 66th minute winner from Horrix after the visitors had soaked up long spells of pressure. Horrix took advantage of a mistake by Newson, the **Bournemouth** sweeper, to fire the decisive goal.

Three minutes earlier Hicks, the Reading captain had rescued his side by clearing off the line from Clarke. Then when Clarke, who is Bournemouth's top scorer, had a clear chance to equalize he missed the target. Bournemouth were dominant in a lively first half but they had Russell booked along with Peters, of Reading. Later, the Bournemouth pair of Thompson and Hefferman were also cautioned.

Notts County moved into fourth place with a 4-0 win over **Wolverhampton Wanderers** at Meadow Lane. County, opening brightly, scored after six minutes through Harkouk who scored direct from a free kick on the edge of the penalty area.

They tehn had to wait until three minutes after the interval to increase their lead despite having the lion's share of possession. McParland scored his twelfth goal of the season with a chipped shot from the edge of the area. In the 75th minute Waltt headed in Clarke's corner to and Goodwin added the fourth a minute from time.

The biggest third division attendance of the day was at **Blackpool** where tempers boiled over on and off the field. The kick off for the match against **Bolton Wanderers** was delayed for 15 minutes because hundreds of spectators were still queuing outside the ground; then there was a confrontation between rival supporters when a group of Bolton followers invaded a section of the ground which had been closed to spectators.

In a scrappy game five players were booked – Deary and Windridge, of Blackpool, and Sutton, Thompson, and Hartford of Bolton. The visitors took the lead on the hour through Cross and Stewart headed a late equalizer to make the final score 1-1.

York City failed to take their chance to move into third place as they were beaten by a controversial first half penalty, converted by Buckley, at home to **Doncaster Rovers**. Hay misjudged a back pass and the York goalkeeper, leaning, brought down Douglas.

Mills, outstanding for York, crashed a 25 yard drive against the post and Doncaster's defence had to withstand severe second half pressure with Rhodes saving brilliantly from Banton.

After letting slip a three-goal lead over Reading, only to lose 4-3, on Saturday, **Plymouth's** promotion challnge faltered further at **Bristol City**, where they were beaten 2-0.

Walsh drove home a penalty in the eighth minute, after Summerfield had brought down Pritchard, and in the 37th minute, Moye headed on for the unmarked Neville to head City's second. The Bristol goalkeeper, Waugh, made three fine saves and Riley hit the Plymouth bar in a disappointing second half.

Four second half goals put **Wigan Athletic** back onf the heels of the leading clubs and kept intact the division's only unbeaten home record. The way to their 4-0 home victory over **Bristol Rovers** was opened by Aspinall who broke the deadlock after 50 minutes with a superb header and 11 minutes later Griffiths took advantage of poor marking to slice in the second.

Wigan's third on 72 minutes, came from a penalty by Kelly and the fourth arrived on 81 minutes with leading scorer Newell netting his eighteenth of the season.

Drinkell the toast as he orders a double

By Simon Jones

Norwich City 3
Charlton Athletic 1

It took a long time for Norwich City to show why they are the leaders of the second division. But after going a goal down through the second half they made a nonchalant recovery which delighted the biggest crowd of the season at Carrow Road.

Having lost only of their previous 17 matches, at was not surprising that Norwich had the air of a team who did not believe they could be beaten. In the first half their football did not inspire confidence; tactically it was unimaginative and individuals tended to be over-elaborate.

That may have worried the home spectators, who were often silenced by the incisive manner of Charlton's counter-attacks, but it did not worry the nome side. Even when Biggins's volley hit the crossbar seconds before the interval, the reaction of the Norwich players remained one of blithe uncoocern.

So it continued in the second half, Norwich gaining the greater possession but generally fiddling about and failing to exploit the pace and trickery of Barham on the right wing.

Norwich finally woke up after Charlton had the effrontery to take the lead in the 64th minute. Like most of the Londoners' attacks, the move was pleasingly simple and effective: Stuart did the hard work before Gritt crossed, Pearson headed down and Flanagan neatly tucked the ball into the corner of the net on the half-volley.

Within three minutes Norwich had equalized. Drinkell walloped the ball over the line when, from Williams's corner, Bruce's header and Mendham's shot had been blocked.

It seemed then that Norwich's promotion rivals might hold on but Deehan's arrival as substitute raised the home side's game to an intensity which Charlton could not match.

Seven minutes from time Drinkell scored again – his fourteenth goal of the season. This time the bemused Charlton defenders left him unmarked at the far post and his downward header from Barham's corner was irrefutable.

By now Norwich were junty, knocking the ball around like men who had always known this was going to happen. All Charlton could do from then on was to drive the long ball downfield and hope.

Predictably, that strategy did not work. With three minutes remaining Deehan added a further goal, Drinkell having headed down Bruce's free kick, although the indefatigable Johns couragreously saved his first shot. It was Norwich's sixth successive League victory.

NORWICH CITY: C Woods; I Culverhouse, D Van Wyk, S Bruce, M Phelan, D Watson, M Barham, K Drinkell, W Biggins, P Mendham, D Williams (sub: J Deehan).
CHARLTON ATHLETIC: N Johns; J Humphrey, M Reid, A Curbishley, S Thompson, J Pender, S Gritt, M Stuart, J Pearson, M Aizlewood, M Flanagan.
Referee: J. Ball (Leicestershire).

Powerless Palace lose grip on Cork

By a Correspondent

Crystal Palace 1
Wimbledon 3

The old-fashioned qualities of strength, hard work and determination yesterday earned Wimbledon a comfortable victory over their second division promotion rivals, Crystal Palace.

The monsoonlike rain turned the Selhurst Park pitch into a quagmire. In such conditions, Wimbledon's direct, powerhouse approach always looked likely to triumph over their South London neighbours' more lightweight and fanciful style of play. Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, took defeat with honour. "The pitch was playable," he said,

Wimbledon took the lead after only three minutes. The unmarked Alan Cork slid the ball home from 10 yards after Galliers had beaten challenges from three defenders to make the pass.

Galliers, formerly with Palace, was the hub of Wimbledon's well-oiled machine. He was tenacious, quick and clever, while colleagues like Hodges and Evans – both six-footers – added the strength that made for problems for Palace.

Surprisingly, there were few real chances. Palace's only first-half effort of note was a hapeful drive from Wright which Beasant had trouble holding. Wimbledon dominated but never really threatened again until Cork scored his second in the 41st minute.

Once more, the Palace defence was badly at fault. Hodges was allowed to run 40 yards along the left flank, beating the full back, O'Doherty, twice on the way before crossing for Cork to poke the ball home.

Palace chose to pump high balls forward to avoid becoming bogged down in the midfield mud in the second half and they biefly improved: Droy headed in Irvine's 61st-minute corner to revive the home team's hopes, but Sanchez scored in the 70th minute to ensure that the points went back to Plough Lane.

Coppell admitted Wimbidon were worthy of a 3-1 win. "We made defensive errors and they punished us. Wimbledon are a committed side and are physical, but they can also play a bit." He had more bad news when he learned that Brush, who limped off in the first half, has damage knee ligaents and could br out of action fot some time.

Four players were booked: O'Doherty and Ketteridge of Palace and Kay and Holloway of Wimbledon.

CRYSTAL PALACE: G Wood; K O'Doherty, P Brush (sub: H Hughton), K Taylor, M Droy, J Buchanan, A Irvine, I Wright, T Aylott, P Barber, S Ketteridge.
WIMBLEDON: D Beasant; J Kay, N Winterburn, S Galliers, M Smith, A Thorn, S Evans, A Cork, I Holloway, L Sanchez (sub: D Wise), G Hodges.
Referee: M L James.

● Peter Lorimer, who was released recently by Leeds United, made his debut for Whitby Town yesterday when he scored in their 5-1 defeat against South Bank.

Swansea's cause takes blow

By Nicholas Harling

Cardiff City 1
Swansea City 0

What promissed to be one of the most poignant football occasions ever in South Wales was a damp squib at Ninian Park yesterday. For even if it was Cardiff City's biggest crowd of the season, they did not exactly come in droves from along the Gower coast and down the valleys to lend their support to Swansea City, whose winding-up order was on Monday given a stay of execution till January 13.

Roughly 1,000 diehards huddling together at the open end for warmth from the biting wind made the 48-mile journey across Glamorgan to see the match many of them never expected to see less than a week ago. As their team emerged the line from the old favourite "We'll support you ever more.. Swansea City," had an extra piquancy, considering how close the old club are to going out of existence.

In the event, a goal two minutes from time by Vaughan for Cardiff wa the last thing Swansea needed to help their cause or, for that matter, their chance of avoiding relegation to the fourth division. Vaughan's goal, whichgave Cardiff their third successive win, opened up a gap between their rivals and neighbours at the foot of the third division and emphasized that South Wales has one team at least worthy of staying up.

Given the spate of sliding tackles, which came thudding in on a surface made slippery by the rain that had dogged the South West over the holiday, Swansea's players seem to have as little time on the pitch for neat, incisive moves as those running the club have off it to find the money they require.

There is cause for some optimism, however, since the "gang of four" former directors, who have raised £50,000 each to meet the Football League's financial requirements, have also been pledged another £110,000 by people and firms within the town. "The response has been marvellous," Harry Hyde, one of the quartet, said.

Tommy Hutchison, Swansea's acting player-manager, who faded in the second half of this match – his first game for six weeks – said the players would find out on their return if they had been paid.

"On the whole they did well," he said. "They haven't been sure of what's happening but, having realized they're still in with a job, they've got to go out and play for the club and themselves. There was no way I could fault them.

"It was the hardest game I've ever had mentally, what with all the travelling and thinking I've had to do over the last few days. The fact is I'm delighted they haven't thrown in the towel. That's the main thing."

For the first 35 minutes Swansea looked capable of celebrating their reprieve in style. Hughes save a penalty from Mullen after 26 minutes and with McHale, Melville and Gibbins going close, the fates seemed to be taking kindly to Swansea's plight, although it was not to be as Cardiff's persistence gained them the reward they deserved.

CARDIFF: L Smelt; W Curtis, D Giles, M Ford, N Stevenson, J Mullen, D Carlisle, N Vaughan, R Turner, M Ferrington, T Micallef.
SWANSEA CITY: M Hugges; D Hough, C Sullivan, (subs: S McCarthy), P Price, A Melville, C Harrison, R McHale, T Hutchinson, R Gibbons, A Waddle, I Davies.
Referee: R Lewis (Great Bookham).



The Swan in flight: Tommy Hutchison taking the field at Ninian Park yesterday.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AND TABLES

First division

BIRMINGHAM 10,378	(0) 0	NOTTM FOREST Webb	(1) 1
COVENTRY 9,356	(0) 0	IPSWICH D'Avray	(0) 1
EVERTON Sharp 2, Lineker	(2) 3	MAN UNITED Stapleton 42,551	(1) 1
LEICESTER A Smith 2, Bright	(2) 3	A VILLA Walters 13,752	(1) 1
MAN CITY Wilson	(0) 1	LIVERPOOL 35,584	(0) 0
OXFORD Leworthy 2, Aldridge	(2) 3	SOUTHPTN 11,256	(0) 0
SHEFF WED Marwood, Thompson	(1) 2	NEWCASTLE Roeder, Beardsley, 30,269	(0) 2
TOTTENHAM Perryman	(0) 1	WEST HAM 33,835	(0) 0
WEST BROM Varadi 12,508	(1) 1	LUTON North, Harford	(2) 2

Postponed: Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers, Watford v Arsenal.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	23	15	4	4	41	16	49
Liverpool	23	13	6	4	46	22	45
West Ham United	23	13	6	4	38	20	45
Chelsea	22	13	5	4	36	23	44
Everton	23	13	4	6	51	29	43
Sheffield Wed	23	12	6	5	37	34	42
Arsenal	23	11	5	6	25	25	38
Luton Town	23	10	7	6	37	26	37
Tottenham	22	10	4	8	29	24	34
Newcastle United	23	9	7	7	32	34	34
Nottingham Forest	23	10	3	10	35	35	33
Watford	22	8	5	9	38	38	29
Southampton	23	7	6	10	30	34	27
QPR	22	8	3	11	20	27	27
Manchester City	23	6	7	10	27	32	25
Leicester City	23	6	7	10	31	41	25
Coventry City	23	6	6	11	27	35	24
Oxford United	23	5	8	10	35	46	23
Aston Villa	23	5	7	11	27	38	22
Ipswich Town	23	5	3	15	18	37	18
Birmingham City	23	5	2	16	19	52	17
West Bromwich	23	2	5	16	20	55	11

Second division

BLACKBURN Brotherston, Barker	(2) 2	LEEDS 8,666	(0) 0
CARLISLE Halpin	(0) 1	MIDDLESBRO' 4,238	(0) 0
C PALACE Droy	(0) 1	WIMBLEDON Cork 2, Sanchez 12,551	(2) 3
HUDDSFLD Raynor, 10,573	(1) 1	BARNSLEY Hirst	(1) 1
HULL Jobson, Askew	(1) 2	GRIMSBY 12,624	(0) 0
NORWICH Drinkell 2, Deehan	(0) 3	CHARLTON Flanagan 17,984	(0) 1
OLDHAM 6,680	(0) 0	BRADFORD Campbell	(0) 1
PORTSMOUTH O'Callaghan 15,285	(1) 1	BRIGHTON Saunders, Connor	(1) 2
SHREWBURY Dyson og	(1) 1	STOKE 9,595	(0) 0
SUNDERL'D Gates, Bennett	(2) 2	SHEFF U Edwards 17,694	(1) 1

Postponed: Millwall v Fulham.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich City	23	13	6	4	48	23	45
Portsmouth	22	13	3	6	36	18	42
Charlton	23	12	4	6	40	25	40
Wimbledon	23	11	6	6	31	23	39
Barnsley	23	10	7	6	28	18	37
Crystal Palace	23	10	5	8	30	27	35
Sheffield United	23	9	7	7	33	33	34
Brighton	23	10	4	9	39	34	34
Blackburn Rovers	23	9	7	7	28	28	34
Hull City	23	8	8	7	37	30	32
Stoke City	23	7	9	7	27	27	30
Bradford City	21	9	3	9	25	31	30
Shrewsbury Town	23	8	5	10	29	32	29
Leeds United	23	8	5	10	37	37	29
Sunderland	23	8	5	10	23	33	29
Oldham Athletic	23	8	4	11	33	37	28
Grimsby Town	23	6	7	10	34	35	25
Middlesbrough	23	6	6	10	19	28	24
Huddersfield Town	23	5	9	9	32	40	24
Millwall	21	7	3	11	28	38	24
Fulham	19	7	2	10	21	27	23
Carlisle United	22	4	3	15	20	48	15

Third division

BLACKPOOL Stewart	(0) 1	BOLTON Cross 9,473	(0) 1
BOURNMTH 6,105	(0) 0	READING Horrix	(0) 1
BRISTOL C Walsh (pen)	(2) 2	PLYMOUTH 8,255	(0) 0
BURY Dixon 3,013	(1) 1	NEWPORT Mardenborough	(0) 1
CARDIFF Vaughan	(0) 1	SWANSEA 9,375	(0) 0
CHESTRFLD Hunter, Scrimgeour (pen)	(2) 2	LINCOLN White, Ward	(1) 2
DARLINGTON MacDonald, Airey	(0) 2	ROTHERHAM Pugh, Gooding 3,727	(0) 2
NOTTS CO Harkouk, M Parland, Waltt, Goodwin	(1) 4	WOLVES 5,264	(0) 0
WIGAN Aspinall, Griffiths, Kelly (pen), Newell	(0) 4	BRISTOL 3,711	(0) 0
YORK 5,320	(0) 0	DONCASTER Buckley (pen)	(1) 1

Postponed: Gillingham v Brentford; Derby v Walsall.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	23	19	2	2	40	20	59
Derby County	21	11	7	3	42	15	40
Blackpool	23	11	6	6	46	25	39
Notts County	23	11	6	6	38	28	39
Plymouth Argyle	23	11	5	7	37	28	38
Brentford	22	11	5	6	26	20	38
York City	23	11	4	8	40	27	37
Gillingham	22	10	6	6	41	28	36
Wigan Athletic	23	10	6	7	38	25	36
Doncaster Rovers	24	9	8	7	29	30	35
Walsall	21	10	4	7	40	29	34
Bristol City	23	8	7	8	29	24	31
Rotherham United	23	7	7	9	28	33	28
Bury	22	7	7	9	37	34	28
Bristol Rovers	22	8	4	10	30	40	28
Bournemouth	23	6	5	12	35	38	25
Chesterfield	23	6	5	12	28	38	23
Bolton Wanderers	23	7	5	11	23	31	26
Newport County	22	4	11	7	21	25	23
Darlington	22	6	4	12	38	50	22
Cardiff City	23	5	3	14	27	44	21
Lincoln City	23	4	8	11	28	45	20
Swansea City	23	5	3	14	18	42	18
Wolverhampton	23	4	5	14	31	56	17

Fourth division

CAMBRIDGE U Lockhart, Cooper, Massey	(2) 3	CHESTER Richardson, Bennett	(1) 2
HALIFAX Kellock	(0) 1	ROCHDALE Taylor 2,253	(0) 1
MANSFIELD Lowery 2, Garner, Chamberlain	(2) 4	STOCKPORT Leonard 2 4,206	(1) 2
ORIENT Juryeu, Hales	(1) 2	HEREFORD Dehe, Carter 2,700	(0) 2
PORT VALE Maguire, Brown, Earle	(1) 3	CREWE 5,978	(0) 0
SCUNTHORPE Matthews	(1) 1	HARTLEPOOL 2,486	(0) 0
TRANMERE Anderson, Williams	(0) 2	BURNLEY Taylor 3,188	(1) 1
WREXHAM Charles (pen)	(1) 1	PRESTON Atkins 2,217	(0) 1

Postponed: Colchester United; Peterborough United; Aldershot v Swindon; Exeter v Torquay.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chester	23	12	8	3	47	24	44
Swindon Town	23	14	1	7	31	24	43
Mansfield Town	23	12	5	6	44	28	41
Port Vale	23	11	7	5	37	16	40
Orient	23	11	6	6	40	28	39
Hartlepool United	22	12	3	7	38	29	39
Southend United	21	10	6	5	36	24	36
Stockport County	23	10	6	7	36	37	36
Rochdale	21	10	5	6	29	23	35
Northampton	23	9	8	6	31	27	35
Colchester United	21	10	2	9	40	35	32
Burnley	23	9	5	9	31	30	32
Tranmere Rovers	23	9	4	10	49	36	31
Hereford United	23	8	5	9	32	32	29
Aldershot	23	8	4	11	31	35	28
Peterborough	22	7	7	8	30	36	28
Wrexham	23	7	7	8	30	41	28
Exeter City	21	7	6	8	23	26	27
Cambridge United	24	7	4	13	33	54	25
Scunthorpe United	23	5	8	10	23	30	23
Crewe Alexandra	23	5	5	13	30	49	20
Halifax Town	23	4	6	11	28	39	18
Preston North End	23	5	3	15	19	53	18
Torquay United	22	3	4	15	19	53	13

GOLA LEAGUE: Barrow 0, Altrincham 1; Boston 4, Kettering 1; Frickley 2, Scarborough 1; Kidderminster 5, Cheltenham 1; Maidstone 0, Dartford 1 (abandoned, 82 mins; Nuneaton 3, Wycombe 0; Runcorn 2, Northwich 0; Telford 0, Stafford 0; Weymouth 0, Barn 0. Postponed: Dagenham v Wealdstone; Enfield v Barnet.

MULTIPART LEAGUE: Bangor City 0, Caernarfon 1; Buxton 6, Matlock 2; Chorley 1, Horwich 3; Gainsborough 1, Workesop 0; Gateshead 0, Workington 2; Marine 2, Rhyl 3; Morecambe 2, Goole Club 0; Mossley 2, Hyde 2; Oswestry 3, Burton 1; Southport 1, South Liverpool 2; Wilson 3, Macclesfield 2.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bedworth 1, Shepshed 2; Corby 2, Kings Lynn 2; Fareham 4, Gosport 2; Folkestone 1, Fisher 4; Welling 2, Crawley 1; Wallenhall 4, Dudley 1; Worcester 3, Alvechurch 2. Postponed: Basingstoke v Aylesbury; Gravesend v Chelmsford; Witney v AP Southampton.

Midland Division: Bilston 4, Moor Green 1; Gloucester 0, Forest Green Rovers 1; Grantham 2, Hednesford 1; Leicester United 2, Coventry Sporting 0; Stourbridge 1, Oldbury United 1; VS Rugby 1, Banbury United 0.

Southern Division: Dorchester 0, Poole 5; Dunstable 3, Cambridge City 2; Thanet United 1, Dorner Athletic 3. All other matches postponed.

Combined Counties League: Malden Vale 3, Malden 2. All other matches postponed.

VAUXHALL–OPEL LEAGUE: Premier division: Billericay 2, Barking 1; Harrow 3, Hendon 2; Windsor and Eton 0, Slough 0; Worthing 2, Bognor 2. All other matches postponed. First division: Hornchurch 0, Anstey 0; Oxford City 1, Cheltham United 2; Lewes 0, Leatherhead 0 (abandoned half time, floodlight failure). Second division, North: Letchworth GC 1, Stevenage Borough 0; Saffron Walden 0, Royston 4. All other matches postponed. Second division, South: Hungerford 1, Newbury 4; Southwick 2, Eastbourne United 1. All other matches postponed.

GREAT MILLS WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Barnstaple 0, Bideford 1; Chippenham 1, Melksham 1; Dawlish 0, Exmouth 1; Frome 0, Bristol City 1; Saltash United 0, Liskeard 2; All other matches postponed.

SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 4, Ringmer 0; Chichester City 0, Whitehawk 0; Littlehampton 1, Arundel 1; Peacehaven and Telscombe 1, Whitehawk 0. **ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE:** Burnham Ramblers 0, Maldon 0; East Thurrock 1, Brentwood 0. All other matches postponed.

IRISH LEAGUE: Ards 1, Ballymena 0; Carrick 0, Glentoran 2; Coleraine 7, Larne 1; Crusaders 1, Glenavon 1; Linfield 2, Bangor 1; Newry 3, Distillery 2; Portadown 2, Cliftonville 1.

Fourth division

Chester go down to Cambridge

Chester, the fourth division leaders, were beaten 3-2 by Cambridge United, who are sixth from the bottom, at Cambridge yesterday.

Cambridge led 2-1 at half-time with goals by Lockhart and Cooper, after Chester had scored first through Richardson. In the second half Massey scored for Cambridge and Bennett for Chester. Chester's lead over Swindon Town is one point. Swindon's match with Aldershot was postponed.

Mansfield Town moved into third place when they beat Stockport County 4-2 at Mansfield. Stockport's player-manager, Les Chapman, was sent off six minutes from the end after his second bookable offence.

Mansfield built up a two-goal advantage inside four minutes but had to struggle when County recovered. Lowery scored twice for Mansfield, whose other goals came from Garner and Chamberlain. Leonard replied with two opportunist goals for Stockport.

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RUGBY UNION

Wyatt shows promise as Bristol pack prove unstoppable in the mud

By Nicholas Keith

Bristol	22
Liverpool	6

Heavy overnight rain at the Memorial Ground ensured that there was much merry mauling and sweet scrummaging in the mire yesterday. But despite the cloying cold there was also enough open play to cheer local supporters who went home happy at a Bristol victory by two goals, one try and two penalties to a dropped goal and a penalty.

This was Liverpool's first visit to Bristol on Boxing Day and they contributed to the festive mood, although they had precious little decent possession. The relatively inexperienced Bristol pack proved to be unstoppable in the mud. Skuse and Miles dominated the line-outs and the home back row worked slickly as a unit.

Indeed Bristol looked their best when Wyatt, Crane and Edgar, the loose forward, were working in tandem together or with Harding, their scrum half. Wyatt still shows great promise at No 8 and he completed an impressive afternoon with a try at the corner flag in injury time. For his size, he possesses exceptional pace but perhaps he needs to attune his undoubted ability to the considerations of teamwork.

Behind the scrum Harding was typically snappy and he set up two of Bristol's tries. Howard, who was deputizing for Morley on the wing, contributed 14 points.

It was Bristol who scored first through Howard when Liverpool were caught offside. But after 24-minutes the visitors found themselves ahead with a penalty by Williams and a dropped goal by Jeffrey, who had hit a post with an earlier attempt.

Then Howard stepped in before half time with nine points in five minutes. First, Harding delayed his pass to perfection to set up a try which Howard converted himself. Then Howard landed a simple penalty after a high tackle on Horton.

In the second half Bristol took some time to get the momentum going again. Sorrell crossed the line after 15 minutes but lost the ball in the tackle. Then at the end of the third quarter Edgar was sent in by Harding for a try which Howard converted.

In a belter-skelter last five minutes Jeffery crossed the line for Liverpool for a five-metre scrum bvut could not ground the ball as he was tackled: HOward raced in for a beautifully worked "try" but was called back by the referee for a forward pass, and then Wyatt appeared for his climactic effort which Howard could not convert from the touchline.

SCORERS, Bristol: Tries: Howard, Edgar, Wyatt. Conversions: Howard, 2. Penalties: Howard, 2. Liverpool: Penalty: Williams. Dropped goal: Jeffery.
BRISTOL: J. Webb; C. Howard, D. Sorrell, R. K. Nibbs, D. Woodman; J. Horton, R. Harding; P. Stiff, D. Palmer, A. Sheppard, G. Crane, M. Skuse (rep K. Bogira), P. Miles, J. Edgar, M. Wyatt.
LIVERPOOL: K. Williams; J. Sharples, M. Johnson, N. Sims, R. Eston; B. Jeffery, C. Jones; M. Stephenson, K. Rabbitt, G. Chubb, T. Morris, M. Hale, J. Hescott, J. Hughes, D. Catlow.
Referee: M. Baylis (Gloucestershire).

Game that came alive in the dying minutes

By Gerald Davies

Cardiff	10
Pontypridd	4

Two tries in the dying minutes were a poor reflection of a game in which the players exerted a great deal of effort for little reward. On a bitterly cold day, with an awkward wind and a slippery surface, both teams endeavoured to play running rugby. The home team won by a try and two penalties to one try.

Cardiff enjoyed the best of the possession and most of the territory but an unyielding Pontypridd defence refused to give way. The visitors are having a poor time of it, having been knocked out of the cup competition in the first round by Dunvant, a junior club from Swansea.

On this occasion they gave a rousing performance. Robinson was sure on the high ball, Nicholas and Smith took man and ball in midfield and their back row's high work-rate ensured that they got around the field to stop the home team from working up a head of steam.

Even playing into the wind in the first half, having won the toss, and running towards their clubhouse – usually a choice kept to the second 40 minutes – Cardiff were in control. The scrum was solid and in the middle of the lineout Rowley, who had played for Pontypridd earlier in the season, and Terry Charles gained most of the profitable possession.

But as well as Pontypridd's stern tackling the home team, as the game wore on, lost direction, too. Their back row, so often their strength this season, was disjointed. Not surprising, perhaps, with Charles, their second captain, at No 8 and Roberts returning to the first team since being injured against Fiji in October. Individually they did well but not as a combination.

There was plenty of endeavour and plenty of movement but it looked as if the game was destined not to have a try. But in the final couple of minutes of injury time the crowd, giving ironic cheers, were rewarded with one from either side.

Up until then it looked as if the two penalties by Gareth Davies were going to be the only scores. He kicked one before, and one just after, the interval. But as if to give something at least to warm us before going home Davies made a break on the blind side to set up David Evans for a try. And from a lineout immediately from the restart Bennett, who had a terrific game, charged down the middle for Carpenter to carry on and score near the posts.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: D Evans. Penalties: G Davies (2). Pontypridd: Try: Carpenter.
CARDIFF: M Rayer; A Gibson, A Donovan, D Evans, A Hadley; W G Davies, T Lee; J Whitefoot, A J Phillips, I Eckman, G Roberts, H Stone, M Rowley, R Lakin, T Charles.
PONTYPRIDD: J Robinson; S Evans, M Nicholas, S Smith, G Loxton; N Cook, R Davies; M Orel, P John, N Wilding, N Sanders, N Roper, B Davies, R Bennett, A Carpenter.
Referee: R O P Jones (Swansea).

May inspires Llanelli in sumptuous feast

By Peter Marson

Llanelli	35
London Welsh	10

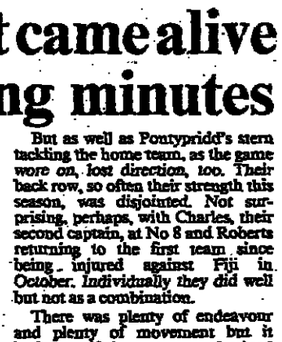
Llanelli were at their most appealing in a feast of running rugby at Stradey Park yesterday and such was their command that London Welsh's defeat might have been heavier still. As it was, they lost by two goals, five tries and a penalty goal to a goal and a try.

The Welsh triumphed in a high-scoring match by a single point at Old Deer Park last October, but at no time yesterday was there the remotest chance of them springing a second surprise. Llanelli, Scarlets in blue on this occasion were quite simply too good fore and aft and having harnessed a strong following wind in the first period they had placed themselves in an impregnable position at the halfway stage.

A mobile and highly efficient pack, ably led from the front by their captain, Phil May, and in which Pickering also played outstandingly well, held the key. The Welsh came under intense pressure from the start and in the second minute Pearce landed a simple penalty goal from in front of the posts. But for a series of mistakes as Llanelli's hands failed them at the last pass, the Welsh line might have been peppered with tries.

Dominant forwards, of course, provided Pearce with an opportunity to display his many talents, and this he did with the help of an astute partner in Griffiths.

If Pearce's subtleties and not least his shrewd line kicking were a pleasure to behold, we had time too, to mark the skill and speed of a lively threequarter line and in particular the thrust and all round



Pearce: shrewd kicking

excellence of Morgan and Evans. In countless rounds of passing they and Gravelle joining in from full back made it all seem so easy.

By half time Carwyn Davies had rounded off one such movement to score the first of his two tries, and there was one each for Carwyn Jones and Gravelle, too, with Pearce adding a conversion. The story was much the same in the second period, though the Welsh's resolve was sturdier now and in twice breaking away to counter they found a proper reward in two good tries.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Tries: Carwyn Davies (2), Carwyn Jones, Gravelle, Chris Jones, Evans, Delaney. Conversions: Pearce (2). Penalty: Pearce. London Welsh: Tries: Waldron Evans. Conversion: Martin.
LLANELLI: M Gravelle; P Hopkins, I Evans, P Morgan, C Davies; G Pearce, J Griffiths; C Jones, K Townley, L Delaney, G Jones, P May (capt), C Jones, D Pickering, P Davies.
LONDON WELSH: A Martin; A Ysandle, G Lewis, N Jenkins, C Rees (capt); H Evans, M Douglas; T Jones, B Light, J Davies, T Waldron, E Lewis, S Page, D Keating, M Watkins.
Referee: Mr W D Bevan (Clydach).

Stancliffe Hall bring up their half century

Schools Rugby by Michael Stevenson

Stancliffe Hall, a Derbyshire preparatory school, completed a remarkable half century recently in winning their fiftieth consecutive match. Over the last three years they have scored 1,545 points and conceded only 108.

Another team on top form at the moment are Bishop's Stortford College, a small school that has seen off some formidable opponents to finish with 13 wins from as many matches, with 356 points scored and 30 conceded.

They have dominated the East Anglian area this winter, beating Felsted 10-6, Berkhamsted 18-0, the Leys 44-0, and Framlington 4-0. Mark Flagdell, a 17½st prop and the hooker, Fraser Marshall, who both earned places in the Hertfordshire 18-group side, proved too strong for most opposition: Richard Eggleton, the No 8 and captain, Darren Kemp, a flanker, and Gareth Green, the scrum half, all played splendidly. It is the first time in the College's history that they have had a season unbeaten.

Aylesbury Grammer School also enjoyed their season, winning all 14 matches and scoring 429 points to 54 conceded. They scored 72 tries, 61 of which came from an attacking back division.

Sean Dinnen scored 21 tries and the captain Patrick Young, in the centre, scored 14. The side was well served by two expert goal keepers, fly half Nick Osborne (101 points) and centre Dai Rowley (81 points). Perhaps their best wins were against RGS Wycombe (37-4), Berkhamstead (24-7) and London Oratory (36-0).

Trent first XV's excellent season has been supplemented by wonderful results from their second XV. Their record reads: played 12, won 12, points for 444, points against 36, reminding us that a school should be judged on its general standard, not just that of the first XV.

MERIT TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hartlepool	2	2	0	0	72	15	100
Met Police	6	5	0	1	121	56	83.33
Morley	4	3	0	1	94	53	75
Vale of Lune	3	2	0	1	37	19	66.67
Wakefield	3	2	0	1	57	48	66.67
Plymouth	3	2	0	1	43	42	66.67
Roundhay	3	1	0	2	37	37	33.33
Birmingham	2	1	0	1	18	50	33.33
Fylde	3	1	0	2	25	70	33.33
Nuneaton	5	1	0	4	44	100	20.
Sheffield	1	0	0	1	11	17	0.
Exeter	4	0	0	4	19	80	0.

CLUB MATCHES: Tonbridge 9, Old Colfeians 29; Upper Clapton 9, OMT 9.

Coventry play Mr Scrooge

By Michael Stevenson

Coventry	19
Moseley	3

There was much more Scrooge than Santa about a hard, dour contest at Coundon Road yesterday. Coventry emerged as convincing winners, scoring a goal, a try and three penalties to a single penalty by Moseley, who managed to contribute positive and enterprising rugby only after they had conceded a decisive lead. Steve Thomas, the Coventry scrum half, had a great match and looked a class player in all he did.

Moseley had won the earlier meeting between the two clubs in a Midland Merit match, so that there was nothing at stake except extreme pride in a traditional boxing Day

More rugby, page 21

fixture that may have become a little devaled since the pomp of these two famous clubs was at its height anf puffing from two pretty good packs, a vast amount of kicking, fine hooking by Brain and some superb goal-kicking by Thomas.

The first-half scoring was all in penalties. Thomas kicked two from two chances, while Metcalfe, apparently more affected by the swirling wind, managed only one from five.

Immediately after resumption, Thomas's third penalty stretched Coventry's lead and, after Ralston had kicked for position, Brain's third strike against the head was the prelude to some finely controlled scrummaging that ended with a push-over try, touched down by Robbins and brilliantly converted from wide out by Thomas.

A 15–3 deficit appeared to concentrate Moseley's minds and the best handling of the match resulted. Some delightful moves, with the speedy Robson at scrum half often prominent, broke on Coventry's brave and sound defence.

Coventry lost their experienced stand-off half, Ralston, with a leg injury halfway through the second half. Clark took his place but Meanwell took his position and almost immediately Coventry scored again. When Tmomas wriggled his way through the Moseley pack, the forwards drove to the line and Paul Thomas picked up and dived over.

Moseley were on the attack again when the final whistle went but it was symptomatic of Coventry's defence and, on the day, Moseley's disarray, that the try which seemed certain, following lively work from Metcalfe and Goodwin, never materialized.

SCORERS: Coventry: Tries: Robbins, P Thomas. Conversion: S Thomas. Penalties: Thomas (3). Moseley: Penalties: Metcalfe.
COVENTRY: C Meanwell; E Saunders, D Jones, R Massey, S Hall; C Ralston (rep: D Clark), S Thomas; L Johnson, captain, S Brain, S Wilkes, P Thomas, A Gulliver. M Fleetwood, G Robbins, R Travers.
MOSELEY: I Metcalfe, captain; J Goodwin, I McAllen, C Smith, P Payne, T Exeter, S Robson; M Unwin, C Barber, G Smith, N Travers, M Cress, A Recardo, P Daniel, S Masters.
Referee: P Russell (Hertfordshire).

Yesterday's results

Alton	13	Hillfoots	3
Berwick	8	Alnwick	15
Bedford	25	Old Paulins	9
Birkenhead Pk	8	Waterloo	43
Boro'muir	20	Corstorphine	13
Bristol	22	Liverpool	6
Broughton Pk	9	Sale	13
Camborne	23	Redruth	3
Coventry	19	Moseley	3
Cardiff	10	Pontypridd	4
Edinburgh Ac	12	Co-optimists	42
Glasgow High	13	Glasgow Ac	15
Gloucester	25	Lydney	9
Hawick	16	Jedforest	13
Kendal	6	Vale of Lune	19
Launceston	3	Okehampton	3
Llanelli	35	London Welsh	10
London Irish	6	Old Millhillians	0
Maesteg	7	Bridgend	7
Melrose	17	Gala	7
Neath	32	Aberavon	9
Northampton	12	Swansea	16
Northern	0	Gosport	3
Nuneaton	19	Rugby	7
Otley	18	Morley	7
Pontypool	48	Cross Keys	0
Preston Grasp	15	Fylde	18
Royal High	6	Heriot's FP	41
Selkirk	14	Kelso	15
Sunderland	6	Durham	57
Swansea	7	Glam Wdrs	10
W Hartlepool	6	Hartlepool	0

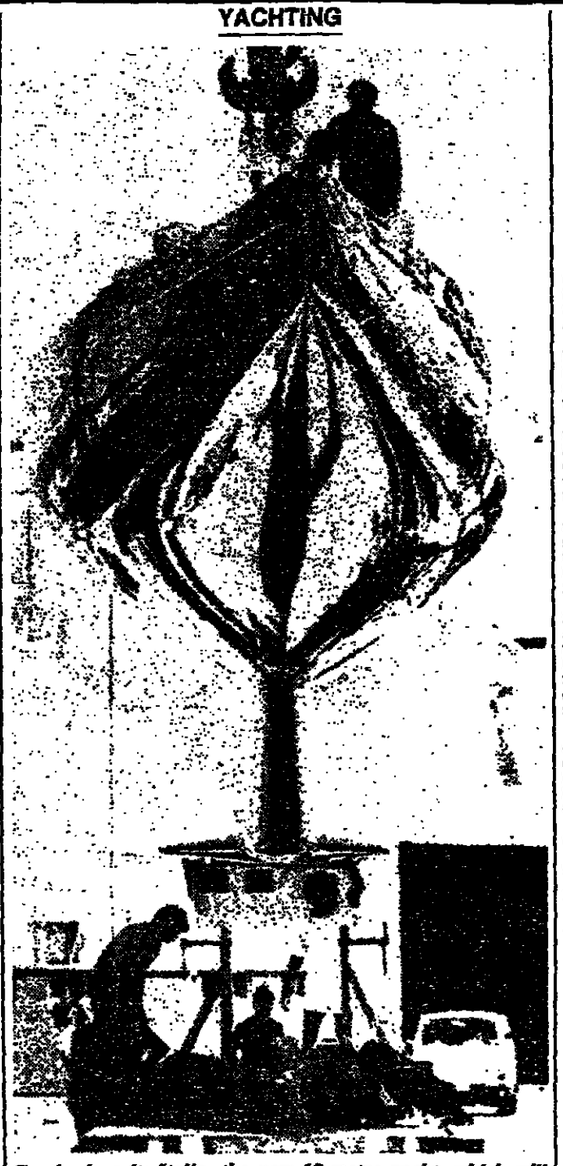
Cancelled: Bath v Clifton; Exeter v Torquay; Ebbw Vale v Abertillery; Newbridge v Tredegar; Newport v South Glamorgan Institute.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Truman Merit Table: Old Colfeians 18, Old Shooterhillians 6; Old Alleynians 25, Old Whigtftians 7. Club matches: High Wycombe 6, Chairman's XV 14; Barnet 7, Finchley 6.
SOUTH WEST: Cornwall merit table: Penryn 4, Falmouth 8; Truro 18, Penzance-Newlyn 16. Club matches: Bodmin 4, Wadebridge Camels 6; Camborne 35, Redruth 3; Helston 6, Exeter 4; Okehampton 3, Launceston 3; Perranporth 6, Roseland 18; St Ives 46, Hayle 3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCH: Swansea v London Welsh
OTHER SPORT
RACKETS: Open under-24 singles and doubles (Queen's Club).
REAL TENNIS: Open under-24 singles and doubles (Queen's Club).

YACHTING



Gently does it: Italia, the new 12-metre yacht, which will represent Italy in the America's Cup, is hoisted from its cradle by a crane at Fremantle

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan in top gear crush St Helens

By Keith Macklin

While Oldham and Widnes were drawing 10-10 at the Watershed-dings yesterday, and thus dropping a poinat each, Hull KIngston Rovers and Wigan continued their winning runs at the top of the first division.

A crowd of 23,000 at Central Park saw Wigan beat St Helens 38-14 after the home side had trailed 6-0 to an early try from Grienke and a goal from another Australian, Conlan. Wigan rapidly moved into top gear against a St Helens side again lacking their loose forward and captain, Pinner. Stwphenson scored the first try, then had to leave the field because he snubbed his foot attempting to kick the goal. Hanley and Whitfield scored tries before half-time, and after the interval it was virtually one-way traffic.

The Australian half back, Ella, got his eighteenth try of the season, Ford touched down, and then the wingerGill ran in two quick tries. Whitfield kicked five goals. Although St Helens got a late try from Meadows, they were well beaten, to add to the worries of their coach, Alex Murphy, following last week's beating by Hull Kingston Rovers in the John Player semi-final.

Hull Kingston Rovers confirmed their supremacy over York with a 22-8 win at Clarence Street, but Hull had an unexpectedly hard struggle at the Boulevard before beating Featherstone Rovers 18-12.

Hull went into the game without their coach, Arthur Bunting, who resigned just before the Christmas holiday following defeats at St Helens and Swinton. Bunting, who steered Hull to championship and cup successes in a decade of big crowds and big victories, has recently been the target of crowd abuse as the team's form and gates slumped.

Salford won the derby game with Swinton 21-17 and Halifax kept up their pressure at the top with a late spurt, inspired by their Australian player-coach, Chris Anderson, which brought them a 22-12 victory against Bradford Northern.

Dewsbury's problems at the foot of the table were multiplied by Leeds, who won 28-8, Dick getting two tries and Creasser six goals.

In the second division, Leigh continued their promotion run, and temporarily halted that of Rochdale Hornets, by winning 26-8 at the Athletic Grounds. Whitehaven won the Cumbrian derby 8-964 against Workington Town, and Wakefield Trinity also kept in touch with the promotion places by winning 19-6 at Bramley.

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford 12, Halifax 22; Hull 18, Featherstone 12; Leeds 28, Dewsbury 8; Oldham 10, Widnes 10; Salford 21, Swinton 17; Wigan 38, St Helens 14; York 8, Hull KR 22.
SECOND DIVISION: Blackpool 54, Carlisle 0; Bramley 6, Wakefield 19; Hunslet 26, Batley 8; Rochdale 8, Leigh 26; Whitehaven 8, Workington 4.

BOXING

Appeal fails to alter Gavilan bout decision

New York (AP) – An appeal that would have reversed Kid Gavilan's hotly disputed world welterweight championship victory over Billy Graham on August 29, 1951, has been rejected by the New York State Athletic Commission.

Gavilan retained his title in a split decision and for years Graham was called the uncrowned welterweight champion of the world. In a rematch 13 months later, Gavilan beat Graham again. This time by a wide margin.

Supporters of Graham had urged the commission to consider reversing the 1951 decision after publication of the matchmaker Teddy Brenner's autobiography, Only The Ring Was Square. In the Book, Brenner recalls a conversation with Irving Cohen, Graham's co-manager, who quotes Arthur Schwartz, a judge for that bout, as saying in a deathbed confession that the Graham-Gavilan bout was fixed.

According to José Torres, chairman of the commission, Schwartz's son learned of the investigation and volunteered the information that his father could not have made a deathbed confession because he died suddenly, collapsing on a railroad platform. He presented an obituary notice and his father's death certificate as evidence.

"Due to the fact that the only acceptable basis for changing the decision of this particular match could have been fraud, and inasmuch as the evidence before the commission is conflicting and inconclusive, the commission holds that at the moment there are insufficient grounds for sustaining a finding of fraud," Torres said in a prepared statement.

"As far as the commission is concerned, the evidence in the book caused the investigation. Once Mr Schwartz's son eliminated the most important evidence, it eliminated the issue. If Graham's supporters bring new evidence and if the commission is convinced it is important, we will look into it further. At the moment, the case is closed."

Torres recalled watching the bout and thinking at the time that it might have been won by Graham. "Was it a bad decision?" he said. "That's a matter of judgement."

CRICKET

Fiery spell by Hogg lifts rebel hopes

Durban (Reuter) – Australia's rebel cricketers experienced mixed fortunes on the first day of their first four-day match against the South Africans yesterday.

After a morning in which they had no luck, Hogg bowled them back into contention with a furious spell which brought him three wickets.

When bad light stopped play 105 minutes early, the South Africans had made 182 for four, a disappointing total having been 124 without loss before Hogg's intervention.

In the space of 17 balls, Hogg transformed the match by dismissing the three top order batsmen for five runs. He removed the openers Fotheringham for 70 and Cook for 52 and also Kirsten for two.

With Rackemann dismissing McEwan for four, the South Africans had lost four wickets for the addition of 24 runs before Pollock and skipper Rice prevented further mishaps. They finisshed the day unbeaten on 23 and 11 respectively.

Pollock received his usual ovation from the crowd when he came in. Hogg promptly greeted him with a beamer and minutes later burst through again to trap Cook leg-before.

Cook, grafting hard to overcome the attack, had three boundaries off 131 balls when Hogg produced a ball which came back at the South African, catching him plumb in front.

At the other end, Rackemann was in his 10th over on the trot after lunch and claimed his first victim when he tempted McEwan into flashing at a ball which reared high off the pitch.

Rixon pounced on the chance, McEwan stood his ground but up went umpire Ossie Schoof's finger and Rackemann bounded down the pitch to embrace the Australian.

Tea was taken at 179 for four with storm clouds threatening Rice accepted the umpire's offer to go off for bad light and play was later abandoned for the day.

SOUTH AFRICANS: First Innings

S J Cook l-b-w b Hogg	52
H R Fotheringham c Rixon b Hogg	70
P N Kirsten c Rixon b Hogg	2
R G Pollock not out	27
K S McEwan c Rixon b Rackemann	4
*C E Rice not out	11
Extras (b 5, l-b 8, w 4, n-b 3)	20
Total (4 wkts)	182

A J Kourie, R V Jennings, G S le Roux, S T Jefferies and H A Page to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1–124, 2–130, 3–133, 4–148.
BOWLING: Hogg 16–8–32–3; Rackemann 21–2–55–1; Hogan 13–4–37–0; Maguire 12–0–39–0; Hohns 3–2–5–0.
AUSTRALIAN XI: J Dyson, G Shipperd, M D Haysman, *K J Hughes, M D Taylor, T V Hohns, 15 J Rixon, T G Hogan, J N Maguire, R M Hogg, C G Rackemann.

● The rebel Australian team beat Natal by 28 runs in a day-night 50-over match at Kingsmead in Durban.
SCORES: Australia XI: 234 for 6. Natal: 206 (49.3 overs).

More cricket, page 20

TENNIS

Why Navratilova and Lendl belong in a class of their own

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova, both born in Czechoslovakia, were the best singles players in 1985 grand slam tournaments: that is, the championships which sort out the big-occasion players from the rest. Lendl was United States champion, runner-up in Paris, and reached the fourth round at Wimbledon and the semi-finals in Australia. Miss Navraulova was Wimbledon and Australian champion and runner-up for the French and US titles.

Miss Navratilova leads the order of merit in both doubles events, too. Her name appears twice among the three most successful mixed doubles pairs, which reasonably suggests that the best mixed team is Miss Navratilova and any one good enough to earn a decent living from the game. In the men's doubles a proud Australian tradition was maintained by Mark Edmondson and Kim Warwick, though they had little to spare at the top of the merit list.

The 10 outstanding men's singles players included eight Europeans, four of them Swedes. Among the first six were three young men – Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg, and Boris Becker – who all won grand slam championsips and, in the process, demonstrated that (in defiance of the cliché) nice guys often finish first. Long may they prosper. We should note, too, that the top six of each sex included a German teenager: Becker and Steffi Graf.

These orders of merit are the objective result of a points system based exclusively on the four grand slam events, with the Australian championships given less weight than the others because of a smaller entry. I devise the lists because the job needs doing and none of the game's quasi-governing bodies is prepared to tackle it.

MEN'S SINGLES: 1, I Lendl (Cz); 2, M Wilander (Swe); 3, J McEnroe (US); 4, J Connors (US); 5, S Edberg (Swe); 6, B Becker (WG); 7, A Jarryd (Swe); 8, H Leconte (Fr); 9, J Nystrom (Swe); 10, H Gunthardt (Switz).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: 1, M Navratilova (US); 2, C Lloyd (Us); 3, H Mandlikova (Cz); 4, C Kohde-Kilsch (WG); 5, Z Garrison (US); 6, S Graf (WG); 7, M Maleeva (Bul); 8, H Sukova (Cz); 9, P Shriver (US); 10, K Rinaldi (US).
MEN'S DOUBLES: 1, M Edmondson and K Warwick (Aus); 2, P Annacone (US) and C van Rensburg (SA); 3, K Flach and R Seguso (US); 4, H Gunthardt (Switz) and B Taroczy (Hun); 5, J Nystrom and M Wilander (Swe).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: 1, M Navratilova and P Shriver (US); 2, C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) and H Sukova (Cz); 3, K Jordan (US) and E Smylie (Aus); 4, H Mandlikova (Cz) and W Turnbull (Aus); 5, B Potter and S Walsh-Peta (US).
MIXED DOUBLES: 1, M Navratilova (Cz) and H Gunthardt (Switz); 2, E Smylie and J Fitzgerald (Aus); 3, Navratilova and P McNamee (Aus); joint 4, P Smith (US) and F Gonzalez (Par) and W Turnbull (Aus) and J Lloyd (GB).





Big-occasion players: Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova

HOCKEY

Veterans and juniors give Cheshire overall edge

By Sydney Friskin

Cheshire emerged overall winners in their Boxing Day matches against Lancashire. The senior match at Bowdon was drawn 1-1 but Cheshire won the junior and veteran games 3-2.

In the senior match, Lancashire had the better of a blank first half but fell behind 15 minutes before the end. Beswick split their defence with a pass to Renshaw, who was dominant in midfield. He sent Greene on his way to draw the goalkeeper off his line and score with a reverse flick.

Five minutes later, however, Lancashire levelled when Cartmell's stick was held down by Peters and, from the resultant penalty stroke, Ferns scored.

In the junior game, also played at Bowdon, Lancashire were 2-1 down at half-time. They equalized through Nuttal but Wessencraft scored in the closing minutes for Cheshire.

● Richard Clarke, of Tulse Hill, replaces Richard Leman in the England team for the three-day indoor invitation tournament starting today at Dundee. England, playing as the Lions, face strong opposition from Menzieshill in group A, from which two teams will qualify for the semi-finals. In the Roses tournament at Bristol last weekend the England team beat Menzieshill 6-5 in the final.

DRAW: Group A: Menzieshill, Indispension Trailers (Glasgow), Mosley (Belfast), Lions (England), Groningan (Netherlands), Dundee Wanderers, Murray International Metals, Drill Cup (Aberdeen).

Territories to break new ground

By Joyce Whitehead

The experimental three-day women's territorial tourumanent, which for the first time will be a championship, starts at Liverpool on Sunday. The first match each day will be at Prescot Leisure Centre, but Liverpool Cricket Club ground will be the venue for the afternoon matches tomorrow and Monday. All three games on Tuesday will be at Prescott.

Each Territorial team will play four matches in the three days, to provide a test of stamina. Last year Midlands topped the last with three wins and one defeat and West were second, North third, South fourth and East fifth.

The Territorial B teams will be at Prescot Leisure Centre tomorrow and each will play twice.

RACING RESULTS

Wetherby

Going: Good to soft

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, Old Nick (R O'Leary, 7-2); 2, Lake Valentina (4-5 fav); 3, Rinus (7-1). 1½l, 8l. 11 ran. NR: C B M Get, J Hanson. Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £7.30.

1.0 (2m 50yd ch) 1, Our Fan (R Rowe, 9-4); 2, Villiersdown (evens fav); 3, Karenomore (5-2). 12l, 6l, ran. NR: Kevinalton. J Gifford. Tote: £3.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £4.86.

1.35 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Shepherd's Hymn (R Crank, 4-1); 2, Carnsadoe (9-2); 3, Jim Thorpe (6-4 fav). 6l 1½l. ran. NR: Ryecroft, T Bill. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £2.30. DF: £9.80. CSF: £20.10.

2.5 (3m 100yd ch) 1, Strands of Gold (R O'Leary, evens fav); 2, Cross Master (8-1); 3, Cump Concert (8-1). 3l, dist. 6 ran. NR: Macedonian. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £2.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.53.

2.35 (3m 100yd ch) 1, Fortina's Express (C Hawkins, 14-1); 2, Why Forget (16-1). Door Lynch 5-8 fav. 5 ran (only 2 finished). Dist. W A Stephenson. Tote: £11.70; £2.20, £3.50. DF: £23.50. CSF: £121.20.

3.10 (2m hdle) 1, Donna Farina (Mr J Quinn, 12-1); 2, Dad's Gamble (7-1); 3, Savoir Vivre (16-1). City Entertainer 11-10 fav. NR, 2l. 9 ran. NR: Tartar Tudor. G Richards. Tote: £7.10; £1.50, £1.50, £1.80. DF: £10.90 CSF: £91.59.
Placepot: not won.

Wincanton

Going: soft

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, Mr Dibbs (M Pitman, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Ramadi Dawn (7-4 jt fav); 3, Bruni Baby (33-1). 15l, 10l. 14 ran. NR: Alga Special, Dark Comic, Golden Raider, Quith Carn, Rapid Gunner, Shared Experience, Wrong Righted, La Belle Rose and Little Beaver. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.10, £9.00. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.45.

1.0 (2m ch) 1, Energies (K Mooney, 8-1); 2, Tudor Road (15-8 fav); 3, Biddlesgh Bridge (7-2). 2½l, 30l. 5 ran. NR: Our Fun, Charcoal Walk, Grima. C Pepham. Tote: £5.50; £2.00, £1.50. DF: £11.70. CSF: £22.59.

1.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, Mr Moocooker (B Powell, 7-4 fav); 2, Simon Legree (7-2); 3, Sutton Prince (13-2). 2½l, 25l. 7 ran. NR: Grockle. L Kennard. Tote: £3.20; £2.10, £3.00. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.01.

2.0 (3m 1f ch) 1, Fredwel (K Mooney, 4-1); 2, Go Maniber (2-1 fav); 3, Run To Me (7-1). 20l, 10l. 9 ran. NR: Broadheath, Charter Port, Little Polwar, Pucka Filly, You're Welcome, Mamaharoon, Swallow Prince, Merchant, Native Trail. P Bailey. Tote: £4.90; £1.40, £1.20, £1.60. £4.30. CSF: £12.51. Tricast: £50.71.

2.30 (2m hdle): 1, Tachador (G McCourt, 5-1); 2 Private Views (evens fav); 3, Karlwak (14-1). Sl, 1¼l. 9 ran. NR: Bright Boy, Fire Boy, High Reef, Tomorrows World. R Hodges. Tote: £6.90; £1.70, £1.40, £3.20. DF: £4.40.

3.0 (2m 6f hdle): 1, Kingswick (N Fern, 5-1); 2, Mallord Lad (5-1); 3, Wild Corn (9-1); 4, Dancing Sovereign (33-1). Blueskirt (11-4 fav). ½l, 15l. 20 ran. NR: Suttmore, Gamesbawn, Graceful Kicker, Glas Cross a Boardmans Supreme. J Frampton. Tote: £9.90; £1.90, £2.90. £1.10, £9.70. DF: £50.70. CSF: £84.57. TRICAST: £221.80.

3.30 (2m hdle): 1, Coss Glen (H Davies, 8-4 fav); 2, Vital Boy (7-1); 3, Tap Tap Tap (11-2). 12l, ½l. 11 ran. NR: General Opson Mister Feathers. T Forster. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £3.90, £1.50. DF: £13.20.
PLACEPOT: £3.65.

Wolverhampton

Going: Good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Mawson Grange (R Hyett, 100-30); 2, Pearl Run (7-4 fav); 3, Aleta (25-1). 1½l. Sht hd. hd. 15 ran. F Jordan. Tote: £4.40; £1.50, £1.90, £7.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £8.19. Tricast: £106.40.

1.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, Royscript (C Smith, 7-4 fav); 2, Small Money (4-1); 3, Final Clear (14-1). 25l, 2½l. 6 ran. J Chugg. Tote: £2.50; £1.70, £1.40. DF: £4.20. CSF: £8.25.

1.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Carved Opal (Mr C Brooke, 1-2 fav); 2, Just For The Crack (2-1); 3, Charley Fisher (10-1). 10l, 1½l. 3 ran. F Winter. Tote: £1.50; DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.79.

2.15(2m ch) 1, Pearlyman (P Barton, 3-1 fav); 3, Little Ginger (8-1); 3, Quaansway Boy (20-1). 12 ran. NR: Bob Tisdall, King Jo, Jo, nk J Edwards. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.70, £6.10. DF: £7.20. CSF: £25.56.

2.45 (2m ch) 1, Oryx Minor (G Charles-Jones, 5-1); 2, Star of Screen (14-1); 3, Nimble Dove (16-1); 4, Cabo Honey (12-1). Star of a Gunner 3-1 fav. 17 ran. NR: Fortold, Purple Flash, Seaton's Delight. 1½l, 2l. S Mellor. Tote: £7.50; £2.20, £2.80, £2.00, £3.00. DF: £56.80. CSF: £87.43. Tricast: £1,192.07.

3.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Miss Nero (J Bryan, 5-1); 2, Country Cap, (33-1); 3, Cherry Melody, (7-1); 4, Into Song, (10-1). Geraint 5-2 fav. 16 ran. NR: James My Boy, 10l, 2½l. C Jackson. Tote: £7.40; £2.10, £2.00, £2.50. DF: £161.80. CSF: £153.10. Tricast: £1,080.83.
PLACEPOT: £57.95.

Newton Abbot



David Elsworth: Newton Abbot victory with Fandango Light

Going: Heavy

12.45 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Fandango Light (J Frost, 5-4 fav); 2, Dear Crest (13-8); 3, One For Mammy (25-1). 3l, 2l. 18 ran. NR: Kingsmill Lake, Prince Tobique, Samalela. D Elsworth. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £1.10, £4.60. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.66.

1.15 (2m 5f ch) 1, A Boy Named Stour (Philip Hobbs, 14-1); 2, Johnnums (16-1); 3, Prince Buskins (12-1). Meister 2-1 fav. 2 ¼l, 15l. 13 ran. NR: Black Earl, S Stevens. Tote: £18.70; £3.80, £2.50, £3.60. DF (1st or 2nd with any other): £6.70. CSF: £217.21.

1.45 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Comire (A Carroll, 3-1); 2, Good Investment (2-1 fav); 3, Pronuptia Bride (12-1). 8l, 3l. 11 ran. NR: Miss Indigo, Timsen. D Wintle. Tote: £8.50; £2.80, £1.30, £3.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: £12.70. Tricast: £75.13.

2.5 (2m 150yd hdle) 1, Predominate (C Cox, 9-2); 2, Gracelull Kicker (4-1); 3, Silver Keys (3-1 fav). 15l, 15l. 13 ran. NR: Benjy Heath, Celtic Fleet, Royal Hero. O Sherwood. Tote: £4.0; £1.70; £1.80; £1.30. DF: £8.20. CSF: £23.85.

2.45 (3m 2f 100yd ch) 1, Broadheath (P Nicholls, 3-1); 2, Royscar (7-1); 3, Ballinacurra Lad (7-4 fav). Sl, 8l. 12 ran. NR: Cenmau, North Lane, D Barons. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £1.70. £1.80. DF: £9.30. CSF: £25.72. Tricast: £45.45.

3.15 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Shoutitout (George Knight, 20-1); 2, Solid Oak (5-1); 3, Sunshine Gal (8-1). Kamag 7-2 fav. 4l, nk. 14 ran. Nr: Il Pontevecchio, Gathrabawn, Bluelmit, Courchevel. J Baker. Tote: £23.90, £7.20, £2.60, £3.80. DF: 103.10. CSF: £124.48. Tricast: £831.98.
PLACEPOT: £13.05.

Market Rasen

Going: Heavy.

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Fils-de-Rel (M Bastard, 7-1); 2, Negresco

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RACING: HAREWOOD CHASER BECOMES FIRST TO PASS £200,000 MARK WITH RECORD THIRD VICTORY IN KING GEORGE

Mearlin fancied to follow up with ground in her favour

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

The prevailing wet conditions underfoot point to MEARLIN (nap) being the day's best bet to win the Northover Fox Hotels Novice's Chase at Taunton today. The winner of two races over hurdles in bog-like conditions last season, Jim Old's mare began her chasing career on a promising note at Chepstow when she finished second to Nassau Royale, who has won again since.

In her next race, at Devon and Exeter, Mearlin showed that she had progressed satisfactorily when gaining her first chase win by 12 lengths. In that sort of form she ought to prove capable of beating Roll A Joint, who finished 22 lengths behind Arctic Stream at Cheltenham after winning his first race at Uttoxeter.

After that fluent performance at Cheltenham, Arctic Stream now goes to Kempton Park to attempt to add the Feltham Novice's Chase to his steadily increasing list of achievements. At Cheltenham he provided conclusive evidence that he stays three miles and relishes soft ground. But I still question his ability to give even as little as 3lb to VON TRAPPE, himself a recent winner on soft ground at Cheltenham. Von Trappe also gets the trip well. Furthermore his recent form is tied to that of Mr Moonraker and Strands of Gold, who were both successful yesterday.

MALYA MAL, a nice young horse trained by Fred Winter with decent form over hurdles, runs over fences for the first time in the Kennington novices' Chase. He is owned by Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin, whose familiar red and black colours were carried to victory by bolands Cross in a similar race at Kempton yesterday. I am led to believe that Malya Mal is expected to give his owner further cause for satisfaction.

HAZY SUNSET, also trained by Winter, can regain the winning trail in the Ladbroke Handicap chase after falling at the last fence at Doncster when endeavouring to peg back that progressive young jumper Newlife Connection. Before that, Hazy Sunset had won well at Sandown Park and I think that his light weight today gives him a good chance of beating Beau Ranger in conditions that are bound to prove testing in the extreme.

TROJAN PRINCE, a useful horse on the Flat when trained by Dick Hern – he began last season by contesting classic trials – is the runner who interests me the most for the Egham Novices' Hurdle.

TROY FAIR, another former inmate of the Hern stable and like Trojan Prince, a son of Troy, is also not without a chance of winning the Weston Three Year Old Novices Hurdle at Wolverhampton following encouragiof first run behind That's Your Lot at Lingfield Park.

At Wetherby, the finish of the Towton Handicap Chase may well be dominated by Misty Spirit and Big Brown Bear, the two nearest the foot of the handicap. Well though Big Brown Bear ran at Haydock Park in the race won by Hardy Lad, I still prefer MISTY SPIRIT, who beat Unscrupulous Judge and Bush Guide last time out at Kelso far more easily than the judge's official margin might indicate. He was eased to almost a walk on the run-in when in complete command.

MICK'S STAR is my other principal fancy at the Yorkshire course. The way that Lord Belper's five-year-old was finishing at the end of two and threequarter miles at Nottingham earlier this month, suggested that he is crying out again for the longer distance over which the Knaresborough Handicap Hurdle will be run.

Interestingly it was over this distance of three miles that Mick's Star won his solitary race last season. But with Glen Lochan, Emo Forever and Jennie Pat lined-up against him this afternoon, his task is anything but simple.

Arthur Stephenson has bright prospects of a double with TARGET MAN in the St John Ambulance Novices' Chase and MATABELE in the second division of the Bradford novices' Hurdle and I am particularly sweet on the latter, who was having his first run for seven months when chasing home Caro's Gift

As the fourth horse, R Nancy, has won a good race at the same course in the meantime, the form looks solid

Wayward Lad wears a triple crown

By Michael Seely

Wayward Lad broke three records when winning the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park yesterday. As Graham Bradley drove the 12-1 outsider past the post a neck in front of Combs Ditch, Wayward Lad not only became the first horse to win the Boxing Day spectacular for the third time, he also became the first chaser in British history to win over £200,000 in prize money. This victory also gave the Dickinson family a sixth training triumph in the King George in the past seven runnings of the race.

Tony Dickinson's victories were gained by Gay Spartan and Silver Buck in 1978 and 79. His son, Michael, completed treble with Silver Buck, 1980 and Wayward Lad in 1982 and 83. Now, having finished a remote third behind Burrough Hill Lad in the race last Christmas, the 10-year-old has given Monica Dickinson, the third member of this amazing triumvirate, the most important success of her career in her second season to hold a license at Harewood.

Over an inch and a half of rain had made the going soft and reduced the size of the field after three withdrawals. Earls Brig and Burrough Hill Lad made the early running and Wayward Lad raced in third place, followed by Half Free and Combs Ditch.

Burrough Hill Lad, after a mistake at the ninth fence, finally mastered Earls Brig at the fifth fence from home. But as last year's winner led the runners into the straight Bradley slipped Wayward Lad through on the inside as Colin Brown started to move Combs Ditch up to launch his attack.

Battling on gamely, Wayward Lad held his persistent challenger at bay for a narrow win. Earls Brig finished 12 lengths away, third with Burrough Hill Lad, the 5-4 on favourite dropping away, followed by Half Free.

Speaking from Manton, Michael Dickinson said: "It's a pretty incredible feat for three members of the same family to have won the race. And as for the race-reader who called Waywood Lad ungenuine, he needs stringing up from the nearest lamp post. You'll never see a braver horse".



Wayward Lad touches down first just ahead of Combs Ditch after jumping the last (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Waywood Lad, has now won 27 of his 46 starts under National Hunt rules. He has never won at Cheltenham and ran inexplicably badly when favourite for the blue riband of steeplechasing behind Burrough Hill Lad at Wetherby and Kempton.

"The vets never found anything wrong with him", said an elated Mrs Dickinson after receiving her trophy from the Queen Mother. "We shall never know what was the matter. He's far better suited by Kempton than Cheltenham, but his owners will probably want to run him in the Gold Cup again".

David Elsworth was delighted with the performance of Combs Ditch, who finished a close second for the year in succession. "The old horse ran a marvellous race and Colin Brown rode a blinder," he said. "I hope it will be a different story at Cheltenham which suits us much better than Waywood Lad."

Jenny Pitman had no excuses to offer for Burrough Hill Lad, the beaten odds-on favourite. "He must have had too much Christmas pudding," she said with a smile. "If the margin had only been a length and a half, I'd have strangled Phil Tuck for letting the winner up on the inside. But as it was it didn't matter".

We are now in the ridiculous position of having a new favourite for the Gold Cup, who has only had two races over fences. Ladbrokes have installed Dawn Run, the 1984 champion hurdler, as their first choice in the market at 5–2, although Corals are prepared to offer 4–1 against the Irish trained mare, who will attempt to win for the third time over fences in the Sean Graham Chase at Leopardstown on Monday.

The champion hurdle situation also became totally confused after both First Bout and Asir had finished out of the first three behind Aonoch in the Ladbroke Christmas Hurdle.

As Jimmy Duggan drove Aonoch past Ra Nova at the final flight, Gaye Brief overjumped and fell when disputing second place.

Aonoch's win gave Sally Oliver from Hereford by far the most important triumph of her career. The six-year-old won the Ekbalco Hurdle at Newcastle in the autumn and then disappointed behind Corporal Clinger in the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Nicky Henderson was also at a loss to explain the poor performance by First Bout, the 5-4 favourite and the winner of last year's *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle. "Let's hope it was just the bad going," the trainer said. "As for See Your Then he won't be ready to run at either Cheltenham or Windsor over the New Year. You'll have to wait a little longer."

IRISH RACING

Boxing Day spree keeps Weld on target

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

The longest surviving racing record in Ireland, that of the late J J Parkinson in saddling 134 winners in a year back in 1923, looks in jeopardy after a unique Boxing Day achievement on the part of Dermot Weld. For the first time there was racing in Ireland on Boxing Day at three different tracks and Weld produced winners at each of them to bring his score for the year to 132.

The star performer from the Weld stable was by Allen Paulson's Son of Ivor in the valuable Duffy Meats Juvenile Hurdles. This is the richest jump race open to three-year-olds and the 13 runners included no fewer than eight previous winners.

An extremely fast gallop was set by Clover Hill Lad, who at the halfway stage was 20 lengths clear. However, he tired on the run to the second last flight and was overhauled by a bunch of horses headed by Raretylo and the favourite and recent Ascot winner, Thawthorn.

The face of the race underwent a further transformation in the straight as Raretylo was headed by a smooth moving Caparison, with Son of Ivor getting a good run on the rails and Dazzlem, hitherto unbeaten over jumps, making a strong burst on the outside.

Backers took even money about Dazzlem coming the the last hurdle, but he blundered badly and Son of Ivor went right away on the flat to beat Caparison by four lengths. The winner and Dazzlem will certainly get another chance of matching strides at home before they go to Cheltenham in March for the Triumph Hurdle.

Paddy Mullins nominated an earlier Cheltenham meeting, that at the end of January, for his fine novice chaser, Hungry Hur, following his comfortable defeat of Ashbourne House and Fredcoteri in the Dennys Gold Medal Novices' Chase.

The President of Ireland could be in the winners' enclosure at Leopardstown today after the feature race, the £20,000 Findus Handicap Chase, in which he will be represented by his Irish Grand National runner-up, Seskin Bridge.

Last year's winner Excursion, would now appear to have too much weight and a bigger danger to Seskin Bridge could come from Fair is Fair, who had a lot in hand when winning a similar type of handicap earlier this month at Fairyhouse.

KEMPTON PARK Ch4

Televised: 1.10, 1.40, 2.10, 2.40

GOING: soft

12.40 KENNINGTON NOVICE CHASE (£1,947: 2m) (5 runners)

101	130-113	FRENCH UNION (D) (BF) [Mrs C Smith] D Nicholson 7-11-10	P Scudamore
104	021222	TAFFY JONES (P Hayes) M McCormack 8-11-5	H Davies
107	00023-0	AREN'T WE ALL (J Thorn) J Bridger 6-11-0	R Goldstein
110	43/2-01	GARFUNKEL (D) (P H Bens Ltd) P Mitchell 6-11-5	R Dunwoody
112	3114-32	MALYA MAL (BF) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 6-11-0	B De Haan

1984: The Foodbroker 8-11-5 A Webb 5-2 F Haynes 5 ran

7-4 Malya Mal, 5-2 Garfunkel, 100-30 French Union, 6 Taffy Jones, 14 Aren't We All.

FORM: FRENCH UNION (11-4) 3rd beaten 12l to Berlin (11-0) 13 ran. Lingfield 2m Nov ch good to soft Dec 7. TAFFY JONES (10-12) 2nd beaten 7l to Desert Orchid (11-4) 5 ran. Sandown 2m Nov ch good Nov 30. AREN'T WE ALL (11-4) unplaced to Sammy Lux (11-4) 15 ran. Plumpton 2m Nov ch soft Dec 10. GARFUNKEL (12-7) won 2½l from Harbour Bazaar (10-5) 8 ran. Fakenham 2m h cap ch good Dec 20. MALYA MAL (10-7) 2nd beaten 2½l to Prideaux Boy (11-9) 7 ran Ascot 2m h cap hur firm Nov 16.
Selection: TAFFY JONES

Kempton selections

By Mandarin

12.40 Malya Mal. 1.10 Hot Handed. 1.40 Hazy Sunset. 2.10 Von Trappe. 2.40 Our White Hart. 3.10 Trojan Prince.
Michael Seeley's selection: 2.40 SUPER EXPRESS (nap).

1.10 LADBROKE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,180: 2m) (10)

205	0433-20	ARBITRAGE (BF) (M Watson) G Thorner 4-11-7	P Scudamore
209	2320-30	OPEN THE BOX (S Mason) G Balding 8-11-6	–
210	0-210	RIO BAY (R Hesketh) S Christian 5-11-1	R Beggan
212	40/0p-0	CORAL WINGS (W Williams) D C Tucker 6-10-9	–
213	00p-	*FLEXIBLE FRIEND (G Darby) J Fox 5-10-8*	S Moore
214	00-010	HOT HANDED (C Nash) C Nash 4-10-7	R Dunwoody
216	4000/0	ROYAL INSIGHT (Mrs J Peppiatt) P Bailey 6-10-7	K Mooney
217	p00-0	JEZAIL (Lt-Col P Dunn) J Fox 5-10-7	N Hunter 7
218	p/030-0	SHARP STAR (B Smoky) G Blum 7-10-5	J Barlow
219	pp0-	YANKEE DOODLE (Mrs B Gittins) D Barons 5-10-2	H Davies

1984: Firing Party 7-11-8 R Linley (10-1) F Winter 15 ran

11-4 Arbitrage, 3 Open The Box, 7-2 Hot Handed, 5 Rio Bay, 8 Royal Insight, 12 Coral Wings, 14 others.
FORM: ARBITRAGE (10-9) 10th beaten over 3l to Merry Jane (10-10) 14 ran Uttoxeter 2m h'cap hur soft Dec 5. OPEN THE BOX (10-7) 5th beaten 25l to Bell Founder (10-9) 20 ran Lingfield 2m Nov hur. RIO BAY (10-11) 8th beaten over 16l to Crobi de Guerre (10-11) 18 ran. Towcester 2m Nov hur good to soft Dec 14. HOT HANDED (11-1) 7th beaten over 40l to Ten Plus (11-6) 18 ran Cheltenham 2½m Nov hur soft Dec 15. SHARP STAR (9-11) 14th beaten over 30l to Vulroys Clown (10-3) 18 ran Doncaster 2m 150yd Nov h'cap hur good Dec 14.
Selection: HOT HANDED.

1.40 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,822: 2m 4f) (6)

302	010-030	BEAU RANGER (C,D) (White Bros Ltd) J Thorne 7-11-7	J Hurst 7
305	1/941p-	STRAIGHT ACCORD (C,D) (Mrs E Bradley) F Winter 10-11-6	S Shilston
308	1210p/4	COLD WINTERS (C,D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) N Gaselee 9-10-12	P Scudamore
310	1-11232	STATE CASE (Mrs R Thornfield) P Bailey 7-10-4	J Duggan
311	443-341	ROADSTER (D) (C Nash) C Nash 9-10-4 (4 ex)	R Dunwoody
314	113-41f	HAZY SUNSET (D) (C Cronin) F Winter 5-10-0	B De Haan
316	43130-1	NICKLE MOPPET (D) (P Dresher) J Webber 8-10-0	A Webber
318	p2-0p21	BRIGHT CASSIS (D) (Lt Col E Phillips) K Bailey 9-10-0 (8 ex)	S Sherwood

1984: Beau Ranger 6-10-0 J Hurst (9-4) J Thorne 4 ran

5-2 Roadster, 7-2 Hazy Sunset, 4 Straight Accord, 11-2 State Case, 7 Cold Winters, 12 Beau Ranger, 14 others.
FORM: BEAU RANGER (10-10) 5th beaten 32½l to Coombs Ditch (11-9) 7 ran Cheltenham 2½m h cap ch soft Dec 7. STRAIGHT ACCORD latest pulled up earlier (11-6) won 11 from Connaught River (11-5) 8 ran Cheltenham 2m 4f h'cap good Mar 14. COLD WINTERS (11-1) 4th beaten 31½l to Admirals Cup (9-7) 6 ran Ascot 2m h'cap ch good Dec 14. STATE CASE (11-6) 2nd beaten 6 lengths to BRIGHT CASSIS (10-2) 9 ran Doncaster 2½m h'cap ch good to firm Dec 13. ROADSTER (12-2) won ½l from Co Member (11-5) 9 ran Warwick 3m h'cap ch good to soft Dec 13. HAZY SUNSET latest in second place when fell last in race won by Newtits Connection earlier (11-7) won well 7l from Aughris Boura (10-11) 4 ran. Sandown 2½m h'cap ch good to firm Nov 29. NICKLE MOPPET (11-7) won 20l from Sea Splash (10-7) 2 ran Leicester 2½m h'cap ch firm Nov 18
Selection: ROADSTER

WOLVERHAMPTON

GOING: Good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

1.00 WESTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £548: 2m) (12 runners)

2	10	BEL COURSE Mrs M Rimell 11-5	G McCourt
4	0	AEROSCOPE A Wilson 10-12	R Dickin
6	0	CLERMONT LANE M Tate 10-12	C Smith
8	2420	CUT A CAPER B Preece 10-12	P Miller 7
10	0	EVERY EFFORT R Holder 10-12	P Murphy
12	4220	LE SOIR R Francis 10-12	C Cowley 7
14	f2b	MATTSAWARD B Preece 10-12	R Strange
17	00	RAISABILLION J Wilson 10-12	Mrs G Rees
18		SPANISH REEL L Edwards 10-12	P Barton
24	04	WALMER SANDS J Spearing 10-12	P Warner
25		NOT ENOUGH R Hollinshead 10-7	–
27	00	REDCROSS MISS (B) W Wharton 10-7	M Brennan

1984: Timmurs Double 10-12 H Davies (13-8 fav) T Forster 16 ran.

5-2 Spanish Reel, 3 Bel Course, 9-2 Le Soir, 6 Every Effort, 8 Clermont Lane, 10 Walmer Sands, 14 Aeroscope, 16 others.

Wolverhampton selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Walmer Sands. 1.30 Nudge Nudge. 2.0 Bashful Lad. 2.30 Gringo. 3.0 Troy Fair. 3.30 Grundy Glow.

1.30 STANTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,326: 2m) (7)

4	f133	LOCHRUN (D) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-7	P Plumb
5	0u22	DEEP RIDGE (D,BF) Mrs M Rimell 7-11-5	E Murphy
6	p0-22	NUDGE NUDGE (D,BF) S Mellor 5-11-4	G Landau
8	0201	ESSEX J Bulcovets 10-10-13 (7 ex)	W Worthington
11	2002	POSTCYNE (D) W Mann 10-10-5	D Chinn
13	p0-f0	PAPERACER (CD) B Preece 6-10-0	P Miller
14	0p-pp	BACKLOG J Dalton 7-10-0	–

1984: King'o Jug 6-11-13 G Charles-Jones (8-11 fav Mrs M Rimell 7 ran

9-4 Deep Ridge, *3 Nudge Nudge, 9-2 Lochrun, Essex, 6 Postdyne,* 14 Paperacer, 20 Backlog.

2.00 STAFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£1,707: 3m 1f) (5)

5	f-u12	BASHFUL LAD (D) M Oliver 10-11-7	J D Doyle 4
6	3-402	SKEGBY O Brennan 11-11-5	M Brennan
8	3100	NATIVE BREAK Mrs W Sykes 8-11-3	P Warner
10	00-13	KASHILL (BF) S Mellor 7-11-10	M Harrington
12	0000	BRONCHO'S COUSIN W McKenzie-Coles 10-10-9	P Dever
14	p-C04	BALLYGROOBY R Perkins 8-10-0	G Williams

1984: (3m) Master Tercel 8-11-1 S Morshead (13-8 fav) J Spearing 7 ran.

2 Kashill, 3 Bashful Lad, 5 Skegby, 8 Native Break, 8 Ballygrooby, 10 Broncho's Cousin.

2.10 FELTHAM NOVICE CHASE (Grade II: £6,996: 3m) (7)

401	p-31211	ARCTIC STREAM (C) (W Whitbread) F Walwyn 8-11-7	K Mooney
405	2f13-21	VON TRAPPE (P Clarke) M Oliver 8-11-4	R Dunwoody
406	440-110	AYLE HERO (Mrs L Dresher) J Webber 6-11-0	A Webber
408	222-112	EDENSPRING (B) (D Montagu) N Henderson 6-11-0	S Smith Eccles
410	20-3321	FUDGE DELIGHT (L Little) O Sherwood 6-11-0	S Sherwood
411	322/b4-	GOLDSPUN (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 7-11-0	P Scudamore
415	20031/2	SAM DA VINCI (J Wilson) R Champion 6-11-0	H Davies

1984: Catch Phrase 6-11-0 R Rowe (9-2) J Gifford 3 ran

15-8 Von Trappe, 5-2 Arctic Stream, 5 Fudge Delight, 8 Edenspring, 10 Goldspun, 12 others.

FORM: ARCTIC STREAM (11-10) won 20l from Strath Leader (11-6) 8 ran Cheltenham 3m4f nov ch soft Dec 7. AYDLE HERO (10-0) 5th beaten 12l to I HaventaLight (11-10) 9 ran. Newbury 3m h cap ch good to firm Nov 22. EDEN SPRING (11-7) 2nd beaten 2l to THE ARGONAUT (11-7) 14 ran Towcester 2m 5f nov ch good to soft Dec 14. FUDGE DELIGHT (11-0) won 30l from Ballas (10-9) 14 ran Towcester 2m 5f nov ch good to soft Dec 14. VON TRAPPE (11-5) won 5l from Mr Moon raker (11-10) 7 ran. Cheltenham 2m 4f ch soft Dec 6. GOLDSPUN (11-10) 4th beaten 7½ to Rose Ravine (11-5) 22 ran. Cheltenham 3m 1f hdle good Mar 12. SAM DA VINCI (10-12) 2nd beaten 2l to Perhaps Lucky (10-12) 7 ran. Sandown 3m Nov ch good to firm Nov 29.
selection: VON TRAPPE.

2.40 AVENUE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,813: 2m 4f) (13)

502	00014-4	TUGBOAT (D) (Mrs G Evennett) P Mitchell 6-11-7	R Dunwoody
504	0211-3p	GAMBLER'S CUP (E Turner) F Winter 4-11-2	B De Haan
505	231200-	MOON MARINER (W Mullins) P Kelleway 5-11-1	R Beggan
506	233204	TIGERWOOD (Miss A Healy) P M Taylor 4-11-0	R Pusey
509	30410-1	SUPER EXPRESS (C,D) (R Bishop & Son Ltd) R Smyth 4-10-8	S Sherwood
510	0-01200	WHISKEY EYES (H Pink) S Mellor 4-10-7	G Charles Jones
512	f-40200	SANHEDRIN (C,D) (D Thorne) G Balding 8-10-7	–
513	30202/p	THURSTON (D) (Deza Advisers Ltd) D Barons 9-10-7	H Davies
515	2121-0	OUR WHITE HART (B) (Mrs B Shorr) N Vigors 5-10-5	P Scudamore
519	131140	MAN O'MAGIC (C Andrews) K Bailey 4-10-2	–
520	60340-0	HOORAH HENRY (N Payne) J Sayers 5-10-0	A Webber
521	02105p-	RUEFUL LADY (D) (Mrs D Onions) Mrs D Onions 8-10-0	Mr L Harvey 7
524	04/00	SOSER SAM (Mrs C Nodey) R Voorspuy 5-10-0	R Rowe

1984: Chrysador 6-10-3 W Newton (3-1) S Christian 7 ran

7-2 Super Express, 4 Tugboat, 5 Our White Hart, 13-2 Tigerwood, 8 Moon Mariner, 10 Man O'Magic, 12 Whiskey Eyes, Gambler's Cup, 14 others.

FORM: SUPER EXPRESS (10-0 all out won 3½l from Sanhedrin (10-0) with TUGBOAT (11-4) beaten 3½l and WHISKEY EYES (10-6) 5th beaten 9½l – 11 ran. Sandown 2m 5f h'cap hur good Nov 30. MOON MARINER (11-1) 6th beaten 28½l to Out of the Gloom (11-0) 14 ran. Liverpool 2m 5f hdle good to soft Mar 30. GAMBLERS CUP latest pulled up, earlier (11-7) 3rd beaten 21½l to Princess Recate (9-11) 5 ran. Huntingdon 3m h'cap hur good Nov 26. TIGERWOOD (11-5) 4th beaten 19l to Mr Key (10-12) 10 ran. Plumpton 2m h'cap hur. soft Dec 10. OUR WHITE HART (10-11) unplaced to Ribobelle (10-5) 28 ran. Ascot 2½m h'cap hur good Dec 14. MAN O' MAGIC (11-0) 7th beaten over 30l to Oceanus (11-0) 9 ran Sandown 2m 5f Nov hur good to firm Nov 29.
Selection: TUGBOAT.

3.10 EGHAM NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,592: 2m 4f) (13)

601	0410	SHROPSHIRE LAD (E Parker) D Barons 11-0	H Davies
603	3313	SYLVAN JOKER (C,D) (BF) (Mrs V Heredgew) P Mitchell 11-0	R Dunwoody
605	0200	CASTIGLIONE (D Montagu) J Francome 10-5	P Scudamore
607	00	DEEKAYS (G Baldwin) G Blum 10-9	J Barlow
608	3	FIB (D Adam) N Henderson 10-9	S Smith Eccles
609	004	FOREVER MO (R Northedge) G Balding 10-9	–
610	f1	FOUR SPORT (G Whitmore) A Pitt 10-9	R Rowe
614	303230	MARIELITO (B) (P Dimmock) G Prest 10-9	M Bowlby 7
616		NORDIC SAVAGE (S Martin) I Cox 10-9	A Webber
621	0p	THAMUD (S Brookman) A Davidson 10-9	–
622		TOJAN FRINCE (R Wilson) Mrs M Rimell 10-9	J Duggan
624	00	CELAIR (Miss L Kent) R Hood 10-4	M Hood 7
628	00	ENA OLLEY (A J Bingley Ltd) D Elsworth 10-4	R Arnott 4

1984: Super Express 10-9 C Furlong (9-2) R Smyth 19 ran

9-4 Sylvan Joker, 3 Fib, 5 Castiglione, 11-2 Four Sport, 7 Shropshire Lad, 12 Marielito, 16 others.

FORM: SHROPSHIRE LAD (11-0) 9th beaten over 15l to That's Your Lot (11-0) 10 ran. Sandown 2m hur good Nov 30. SYLVAN JOKER (11-1) 3rd beaten 2½l to Friends For Ever (11-1) 13 ran Plumpton 2m hur good to firm Nov 27. CASTIGLIONE (11-0) 10th beaten over 10l to Cassie and Robbers (11-0) 15 ran. Cheltenham 2m hur soft Dec 7. FIB (10-10) 3rd beaten 2½l to Bob and Peter (10-10) 25 ran. Warwick 2m hur soft Dec 13. FOREVER MO (10-10) 4th beaten 26l to Houston Belle (10-9) with SYLVAN JOKER (10-10) 3rd beaten 3l, 8 ran. Kempton 2m hur firm Nov 7. FOUR SPORT (10-5) won 1½l from I'm Somebody (10-10) 11 ran. Plumpton 2m hur good to firm ov 27. MARIELITO (10-3) 9th beaten over 10l to Marley Rootus (10-10) 20 ran Lingfield 2m hur oggd Dec 21.
Selection: SHROPSHIRE LAD

Multiple falls spoil big Wetherby event

Wetherby's richest race of the season, the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase, was turned into a comedy of errors yesterday when three of the five runners fell three fences from home, and Why Forget came down at the last when looking certain to win.

The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Forgive 'n' Forget and the odds-on favourite, Door Latch, were two of the casualties three out, while Solares, who was toiling behind, fell independently.

Fortina's Express was left in front, but looked a tired horse when Brian Storey sent Why Forget to the front after the second last. However, Colin Hawkins, a last-minute substitute for Ridley Lamb on the 14-1 Shot Fortina's Express, could not believe his luck when the leader stumbled on landing. Storey remounted Why Forget to pick up the second prize money.

Ron O'Leary, deputising for the injured Mark Dwyer on Forgive 'n' Forget, said his horse was cantering at the time but completely missed out the fence. Josh Gifford felt Door Latch was also going well.

Old Nick (7-2) got locals off to a flying start by beating the odds-on favourite, Lake Valentina, by a length and a half in the first division of the Christmas Novices' Hurdle

Huntingdon off

Yesterday's Huntingdon meeting was abandoned after a 9am inspection. The clerk of the of the course, Hugo Bevan, said: "We had no alternative – the river was rising so fast".

Kempton Park results

Going: soft

12.40 PORT WINE NOVICE CHASE (£2,830: 2m 4f)

BOLANDS CROSS b g by Weaver's Hall–Miss Morse(Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) 8-11-0 ..... P Scudamore (11-8 fav) 1
Vodkatini b g by Dubassoff– Olympic Visualise(D Richardson Racing Ltd) 6-11-4 ..... A Webber (7-2) 2
Aurutiah br gby High Top– Ravenshead(Mrs Thorn) 5-11-0 ..... R Goldstein (20-1) 3

Also Ran: 2-1 The Argonaut (u.r) 10 Two Eagles (p.u.), 5 ran. NR: Strath Leader, Some Machine. 25l, 5l. N Gaselee at Upper Lambourn.

TOTE: Win: £2.20. Places: £1.70, £1.30. DF: £4.60. CSF: £8.22.

1.10 FOOD BROKERS-ARMOUR NOVICE HURDLE (£3,891: 2m)

OPPIDAN b g by Pitpan– Daraheen(Mrs C Heath) 5-11-0 ..... S Sherwood (9-2) 1
Tisiphone gb gby Fidel– Candy Floss(Lady Harris) 5-11-0 ..... K Burke (33-1) 2
Cavalea Clown b g by Idiot's Delight– Cavalina(Mrs J Ollivant) 5-11-7 ..... P Hobbs (20-1) 3

Also Ran: 6-4 Fav Insular (5th), 6 Dominate, 13-2 Asswan (4th), 8 Welsh Consort (p.u.), 16 Broken Wing, Detroit Sam (p.u.), 20 Aldo King (6th), Battalas Lad (p.u.), 25 Moondawn, 33 Tory Hill Lad. 13 ran. Celtic Flame, Joli Wasfi, One For Mammy, Trapeze Artist, Waljat. 3l, 12l, 1l, 1½l, 12l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn.

TOTE: Win: £5.00. Places: £1.80, £3.00, £3.30. DF: £126.90. CSF: £128.57. at

1.40 LADBROKE CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade 1: £15,920: 2m)

AONOCH b g by Deep Run– Santimwen-(Miss S Oliver) 6-11-3 ..... J Duggan (14-1) 1
Ra Nova ch h by Ragazzino– Miss Casanova(Lady Matthews) 6-11-0 ..... C Pimlott 2
Kesslin b g by Derrylin– Kesselia(Lt Tudor) 5-11-3 ..... J White (9-1) 3

Also Ran: 5-4 fav First Bout (4th), 3 Asir (PU), 4 Gaye Brief (F), 33 Janus (5th) Prideaux Boy (6th), 100 Anything Else (PU). 9 ran NR: Desert Orchid, 15l, 5l, 12l, 25l Mrs S Oliver at Hereford.

TOTE: Win: £24.50. £3.70, £2.30, £2.00. DF: £98.90. CSF: £147.83.

Other results, page 19

2.15 KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade 1: £24,838: 3m)

WAYWARD LAD b or br g by Royal Highway– Loughanmore(Mrs P S Thresh) 9-11-10 ..... G Bradley (12-1) 1
Combs Ditch ch g by Celtic Cone– Red Star(R Tory) 9-11-10 ..... C Brown (3-1f) 2
Earls Brig br g by New Brig– Naughty Tara(W Hamilton) 10-11-10 ..... T G Dunn (7-1) 3

Also Ran: 4-5 fav Burrough Hill Lad (4th), 12 Half Free. 5 ran NR: Acarina, Rockfield Boy, The Tsarevich. Nearly 12l, 4l, 30l. Mrs M Dickinson at Harewood.

TOTE: Win: £6.20; £1.70, £1.80, DF: £9.20. CSF: £41.35.

2.45 BOXING DAY H'CAP HURDLE (£3,376: 2m)

YABIS ch c. by Bold Bidder – Tintagel (K Al-Said) 4-10-8 ..... P Scudamore (7-1) 1
The Tarlahs b g. by Deep Run – Vulgo (Mrs B Curley) 6-10-9 ..... D Murphy (7-2) 2
Dhofar ch g. by Octavo – Cress (Lt Col E Harries) 5-11-7 ..... S Smith-Eccles (8-1) 3

Also Ran: 3-1 Fav Mr Key (6th), 9-2 Lanhydrock (4th), 8 Tancred Walk, 10 Butlers Pet, 12 Bothylnowes (PU), Inlander (5th), Super Grass (PU).
NR: Try To Remember, Shantan. 10 ran. 15l, 7l, 4l, 4l, 1 ½l, J Edwards at Ross-on-Wye.

TOTE: £9.20, £2.50, £1.50, £2.00. DP: £18.70. CSF: £34.51. Tricast £152.99.

3.15 FALKLANDS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,578: 3m)

CHARTER PARTY b g. by Document – Ahoy There (Mrs C Smith) 7-10-11 ..... P Scudamore (2-1 fav) 1
I Haventalight b g. by Pauper – Lovely Colour (B Brazier) 10-12-7 ..... S Sherwood (3-1) 2
Everetti b g. by Carlburg – Smart Money (K Hennessy) 10-12-7 ..... C Brown (7-1) 3

Also Ran: 9-2 Greenwood Lad (4th), 15-2 Little Polveir (PU), 10 Plundering (5th), 33 Membridge (5th), 7 ran.
NR: Ardent Spy, Duke of Milan, 4l, 10l, 6l, 20l, Dist. D Michelson at Stow-on-the-Wold.

TOTE: £3.10, £1.70, £1.90; DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.99.
Jackpot: Not won. Placepot: £249.90.

Course specialists

KEMPTON

TRAINERS: F Winter, 41 winners from 150 runners 27.3%; S Mellor, 7 from 31, 22.6%; N Henderson, 13 from 60, 21.6%.
JOCKEYS: R Rowe, 19 winners from 104 rides, 18.3%. S Smith Eccles, 13 from 84, 15.5%; H Davies, 9 from 66, 13.6%.

WETHERBY

TRAINERS: Mrs M Dickinson, 49 winners from 110 runners, 44.5%; M H Easterby, 40 from 176, 22.7%; W A Stephenson, 39 from 246 15.9%.
JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 14 winners from 67 rides, 20.9%; J J O'Neill 19 from 99, 19.2%; R Earnshaw, 10 from 53, 18.9%.

WOLVERHAMPTON:

TRAINERS: Mrs M Rimell, 22 winners from 86 runners, 25.6%; N Henderson, 6 from 35, 17.1%; J Spearing, 9 from 51, 15.9%.
JOCKEYS: P Dever, 2 winners from 24 rides 8.3%; R Crank, 8 from 100, 8%.

TAUNTON

TRAINERS: S Mellor, 6 winners from 11 runners, 54.5%; S Pattenore, 9 from 31, 29.0%; J Thorne, 17 from 107, 15.9%.
JOCKEYS: C Brown, 13 winners from 86 rides, 15.1%; P Leach, 14 from 98, 14.3%; B Powell, 5 from 61, 8.2%.

WETHERBY

Going: good to soft

12.30 BRADFORD NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £548: 2m) (19 runners)

3	s0-p8	ASHBENDER D Moffatt 4-10-10	K Teelan
4	230p-0	BOMBARD Denys Smith 4-10-10	C Grant
5	-0000	COUNT MIDAS A Watson 5-10-10	M Pepper
7	0/0/0	DOUBLEPORRIDGE J Dodier 5-10-10	D Wilkinson
8	000-3	HALEWOOD VINTNER D McCain 5-10-10	–
10	-03dd	JOINT SOVEREIGNTY J FitzGerald 5-10-10	R O'Leary
11	pp00-	KILDARE LAD G Calvert 5-10-10	A Stringer
12	0	MARSH STAG J Blundell 4-10-10	D Dutton
13	0

CRICKET

Australia made to struggle as Indian spinners take control

Melbourne (Reuter) – The left-arm spinner Ravi Shastri took four wickets for 64 runs yesterday as India destroyed the Australian innings on the first day of the second Test match here.

At the close of play, Australia were 210 for eight in their first innings after another disappointing performance in which only the all-rounder Matthews, with 54 not out offered prolonged defiance.

Australia's problems began before play started. Ritchie, who hit a century in the drawn first Test, was forced to withdraw after fracturing two toes in a domestic accident.

Then Border lost the toss and was immediately sent in to bat by Kapil Dev on a pitch which gave plenty of help to the slow bowlers.

The Indian captain turned to his spinners after only seven overs and Shastri, off-spinner Yadav and leg-spinner Sivaramakrishnan gave him ample support.

This trio took all the wickets that fell yesterday. Sivaramakrishnan, whose form had been disappointing, conceded 51 runs from his 13 overs but took tow important wickets including that of Border.

Border hit a six and a four before he drove a ball straight back to the slim leg-spinner who gratefully accepted the chance and the Australian captain was out for only 11.

Australia had struggled from the start with Boon falling leg-before to Shastri for 14.

Phillips, whose form against the spinners was in sharp contrast to his usual elegance against the faster bowlers, was bowled by Yadav for seven after 77 uncomfortable minutes at the crease.

Marsh played patiently for 30 compiled in 163 minutes before he was caught by Sivaramakrishnan off Yadav and when Border was out Australia were reeling at 90 for four.

Hookes raised their morale with a hard-hit 42 before Matthews, ably assisted by Bright gave the total some degree of respectability.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

W. B. Phillips b Yadav	7
D. C. Boon lb-w-b Shastri	14
G. R. Marsh c Sivaramakrishnan	30
*A. R. Border c and b Sivaramakrishnan	11
D. W. Hookes b Shastri	42
S. R. Waugh c Kapil Dev b Sivaramakrishnan	13
†R. J. Matthews not out	54
R. J. Bright b Shastri	28
C. J. McDermott c Kapil Dev b Shastri	1
B. A. Reid not out	0
Extras (b6, lb 5)	10
Total (8 wkts)	210

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–22, 2–28, 3–41, 4–90, 5–109, 6–127, 7–193, 8–195.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev, 13.2-5-24-0; Binny, 3-0-11-0; Shastri, 33-13-64-4; Yadav, 24-10-50-2; Sivaramakrishnan 13-2-51-2.

INDIA: S. M. Gavaskar, K. Srikkanth, D. B. Vengsarkar, M. Azharuddin, M. B. Amarnath, R. J. Shastri, *Kapil Dev, R. M. H. Binny, †S. M. H. Kirmani, S. N. Yadav, L. Sivaramakrishnan.

YACHTING

Rampant beyond recall after line is broken

Sydney (Agencies) – Rampant II held first place last night on the first day of the 630-mile Sydney-to-Hobart race, but a premature start has probably cost her a chance of winning.

The Sydney Maxi, owned and skippered by Alan Tucker, was one of six yachts ordered to re-estart after breaking before the gun was fired. Marloo II, skippered by Sir James Haroy, was most affected, losing an hour and 19 minutes in returning to Sydney Harbour. But Rampant II, together with Parmelia and Prime Suspect, ignored the directive.

"That used to mean automatic disqualification, but now I would suspect the boats concerned will incur a 20-30% penalty," the race director, Gordon Marshall, said. "The final decision will be arrived at by the jury in Hobart, but the penalty could see the offender move back 30 or 40 placings."

In the latest official positions, Rampant II led the Victorian "pocket" Maxi, Spirit of Queensland, Windward Passage, Ragamuffin and Apollo, Goldfinger led on corrected time.

Ragamuffin was involved in one of several collisions when it failed to untangle itself in the congested harbour. She was reported to have clshed with a Sydney 12-metre Zap, who suffered damaged topsides and lifelines.

Another Concubine continued her run of bad luck in a collision with the West Australian two tonner, Hitchhiker. Both boats were flying protest flags after the incident, but there appeared to be little damage. Apollo made a cleati break in near-perfect conditions and was first through the Heads.

How rugby players reap rewards of 'keeping it simple, stupid'

KISS of life by Jones the coach





Dedicated men: Jones (right), Green (above) and Ashton



Alan Jones has a romantic acronym for his approach to coaching, be it of Australia or any other team: it is the KISS (keep it simple, stupid) system. It underscores the point which one always meets in Australasia, where coaches may not possess the paper qualifications of their British counterparts and the players may not always know the difference between channel one, two or three ball, but their rugby works because it is tried, tested and simple.

Jones, in his own words, trains hard: "We always do our skills slowly, we worry about speed later. First we warm up without the ball, comprehensive exercises. Then we do form work with the ball, to see that hands and arms are in the right positions. Then an hour of skills. Then the pack go on the scrummage machine, someone else takes the packs and we wind up with a 'match' against opposition, which is the reserves.

"Above all, I tell them, no loose heads." In Jones's parlance, that means cut out mistakes. Richard Greenwood, England's former coach, would have said: "Give the bastards nowt". There must be no

'We also practise cover attack'

dropped balls, no forward passes, no mistakes in the tackle. "Centres mustn't go to ground," Jones says. "they must maul with the best of them. In some ways they must be like four breakaways – if one centre has the ball and is held, the other centre goes in and takes it off him.

"We don't try to score every time we get the ball, we try to move the opposition around, like chess. We practise cover defence but we also practise cover attack, men coming up on the inside so that the ball carrier knows he has support. He can do what I call a Hail Mary pass, hold the defender with his eyes while sweeping the ball away.

"My mob are athletes. But when you write to players telling them what you want in athletic preparation there is a level of bluff in it. You don't always expect them to do it. But the level of fitness is absolutely crucial.

"My players also had to accept a level of commitment they had not had before. We were fed up with being noble losers. All the players had running programmes, a level of work for six days of the week of which the players had to accomplish three. It wasn't daily, that's too much.

"In a game you have to pick up the bad balls, you have to be comfortable with the ball. A lot of the time you see players catching the ball but we should concentrate on moving it on, inside or outside, it doesn't matter, you should learn familiarity with the ball passing through the hands.

"One of our exercises includes the players giving the worst pass they can and the next man has to pick it up. We cover 100 metres trying to eliminate all handling errors like that. And in training we never use all the paddock. At the most we use half the field. Rugby's all about time and space and there is never enough of either. But I think you should be optimistic in England. I believe you have the talent."

Jones is the complete antithesis, in appearance, of England's coach, Martin Green, who, on the surface, is a quiet, almost terse man. But he, Jones and Brian Ashton, Green's assistant, share interesting similarities: all are, or have been, schoolteachers, and none of them played international rugby.

Green and Ashton are developing together. They are part of a revised selection system which Jones believes has vastly enhanced England's prospects: he insists that the selectors must have a firm idea of two-thirds of their team and make their final deliberations in the knowledge that a three-man panel leaves no doubt where ultimate responsibility lies: "It's your neck on the block, so you've got to go for it in your own way."

Green, head of Warwick School's economics department, suggests: "A lot of international football is the belief in what each of us is doing within the system. Our

Being a prop 'not end in itself'

approach is just as passionate (as Jones's) but perhaps it comes out in a different way. On tour last summer I sensed that all our people were playing not only for themselves but everyone in the party.

"But our rugby education should be focused much more on the background skills. Some of the things we recognize as being wrong with our game may not be straightened out until the second World Cup. We want to focus on a few things this year and see if they work out. One of those is selection."

Ashton, physical education master at Stonyhurst College, was delighted to hear Jones's emphasis on the combination of skills for all players and the athletic approach to fitness training. "We have made it plain to the players, last season and this season, that a more athletic approach was going to be stressed. Some of the players have actually been doing athletic training alongside their normal rugby training.

"In my book, being a prop is only part of your rugby make-up, not an end in itself. Or, if you are a wing, you will probably be the nearest person to anyone tackled in the outside centre position and you have to go in and get the ball rather then waiting for a forward to come and do it.

"I'm not absolutley convinced by the argument that you don't use the whole pitch for training any of the time, though I can see how useful it is to use confined areas for back row moves and in getting players to concentrate their minds on skills."

Green and Ashton are enthusiastic about the growing communication with players, though the king of relationship which Jones strives for is always easier to attain on tour (or, Ashton says – with a wry grin, if you have the kind of job which gives you the freedom to move about the country). Whatever England achieve this season, Warwick and Stonyhurst should get a nod of thanks from the Rugby Football Union.

David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The magic vanished in a puff of dust from the land of Oz

AUSTRALIAN SPORT
Sue Mott

Australian sporting types, smack in the middle of their southern hemisphere Christmas-in-summer, have been asked to consider what they are expecting in the coming year. Realistically, the Australian cricket team could be forgiven for thinking in terms of ducks rather than other more traditional types of Christmas poultry, while tennis players have, less specifically, been getting the bird.

All in all, a return to international sporting prowess for Australia is about as unthinkable as Christmas pud and syllabub in this climate.

But 1986 could be an important year, heralding the Commonwealth Games, the America's Cup preliminaries and an England Test team tour, so more than one football sock is being hung over the bed-post in the hope of some radical improvement of the sporting situation.

Frank Arok, the national soccer coach, old Mad Dog himself, wants to see the establishment of an information bank in Australia on the subject of world football. "It was an accident an idiot like me was able to introduce a successful system for the Socceroos", he said. "But the other 23 coaches in the league [Australia's National Soccer League] have got no information whatsoever."

Curiously, neither has Arok received confirmation that he is to be retained as national team coach despite the glorious failure of not qualifying for the Mexico World Cup in the two-leg play-off against Scotland. But instead of accusing the soccer hierarchy of canine imbecility for the delay, he has become remarkably cautious these days.

"It would be silly to push them for an answer," he said. "and I am too old to be silly." That sentiment clearly does not apply Mark Jackson, an Australian Rules footballer, known country-wide as Jacko and lately famed as the boxing buff that Kepler Wessels, the former Test cricketer, refused to meet in an exhibition bout.

Among many new year presents that Jacko had in mind for himself this year was one for his sport in general to enliven the spectacle. "If I had my way," he said, "I'd allow wrestling on the field in the goal area while the play is up the other end. The backs and forwards could throw punches at one another, which would be a tremendous way to keep people entertained."

In return for this supremely gallant and unselfish suggestion, Jacko has requested that the Victorian league kindly refrain from suspending him eight times in 1986, as they did this year for his self-confessed "aggro and horrendous temper." And he added: "I hope I can achieve half my overall lifetime goal, which is to be a millionaire by the time I'm 30."

Many new year hopes and dreams are being invested in the multi-million-dollar 12-metre yachts currently vying for space in the docks at Fremantle. John Longley, the general manager of the Bond defence syndicate, has only one item on his wish-list: Four inches at the bottom mark in the last race of the America's Cup," he said. "Four inches in front, that is."

More broadly, the cup and its gregarious 14-mouth build-up is expected to bestow a whole new image on yachting the sport as opposed to elitist pastime. "I would like to see yachting become a really good value spectator sport," Longley said. "With our clear air, good breeze and short course the cup should be a very, very spectacular event, instead of drifting around in the smog off Newport.

That befogged and feckless state, metaphorically speaking, could apply to Australian sport generally with only a few notable exceptions. The America's Cup is one, the IBF bantamweight world champion, Jeff Fenech, is another and so is a remarkable 30-year-old woman from Brisbane, Adair Ferguson, who used her science degree to discover that she was ideally suited as a sculler and promptly became Australia's first ever rowing world champion.

Elsewhere there is little of what we have lost, like the keenness to win for the sheer hell of winning. Our America's Cup crews gain nothing financially for working 15 hours a day, six days a week preparing for the races. They are the last of the great Corinthians."

The much-maligned Australian Test side have become the standard-bearers of Australia's rotten sporting year. In their case Jacko sees only one solution. "They're overweight and hopeless", he said, with rather less seasonal bonhommie than might be expected. "I'd line them up against the screen at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and shoot the lot of them."

And Happy New Year to you, too.

IN BRIEF

Boyle closes in on title

Steve Boyle, the promising young Glasgow lightweight, is to meet Mickey Baker, of Worcester in a final eliminator for the British title in Glasgow on January 20. Boyle has lost only one of his 18 professional fights.

BASKETBALL: Only 15 countries will contest the three regional places available for the world championships in Barcelona next year following the withdrawal of four middle eastern countries from the Asian championships. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Syria have all pulled out without giving their reasons.

TENNIS: Australia's Mark Kratzmann, the world's No1 junior last year and winner of the junior Wimbledon title, reached his first grand prix tournament quarter-final yesterday by beating Christo Steyn, of South Africa, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2 in the Victorian open championship.

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AND ONE CRIED unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

BIRTHS

COOPER – on 21st December to Richard and Janet, a daughter, Hester.

FURLONG.– On 21st December to Penny and John, a son (Edward John), A brother for Laura.

GOOD–*On Christmas Eve at Oxford* to Anneta, (nee Millen) and Robert, at last a daughter, Alice Eleanor Louise, a sister for Charles, Mark and Huw.

HEALD–On 23rd December to Christine and Oliver, a daughter, Sarah.

JUED – On December 23rd, 1985, to Emma and Christopher, a son.

KENNEDY on December 21st 1985 in Paris, to Nicola (nee Spencer) and Nigel a daughter.

LAWRIE–On 16th December at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to Letitia (nee Mollison) and Antony – a daughter Alexandra Patricia Duff.

MACDONALD. – On 21st December in Canberra, to Anne (nee Wallace) and Peter – a son (John Gilbert), brother to Julia.

PATENGE.– On December 19th to Madeline (nee Flynn) and David, a son, Robert Buck.

TAYLOR On 31st December to Christina – a son (Oliver James).

ADOPTION

STONE-By-GWENNETH (Née Pryor) and Roger, a son, Jonathan George now 3½ years old, on December 16th, a welcome brother for Rebecca.

GOLDEN WEDDING

THORNELY : KIMBERLEY on December 27th 1935, Stanley Morris Thornley to Myra Kimberley. Current address: Whittingham Lane, Broughton, Preston.

DEATHS

BAYFIELD On December 22nd in King Edward VII Hospital Midhurst, Leslie Chase, aged 90 years of Billingshurst, dearly loved husband of Pamela, father of Peter and Linda and a much loved grandfather and friend. Funeral at Worthing Crematorium on Tuesday December 31st at 10.00 am. Flowers Bros Funeral Directors, Horsham.

BEALE. On December 23 after a long illness borne with courage and hope, at his home, Windhover, Treyarnon Bay, Evelyn Martin Lansdowne Beale, FRS, beloved husband of Betty, father of Nicholas, Rachel and Marcus and son of Betty. Burial at 3pm on Saturday December 28 at St Merryn Church, Cornwall. Memorial service to be announced later. "And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home." (LK 1).

BRAYBROOKE – On Christmas eve, Angela Mary, beloved wife of Lord Braybrooke ("Gela") peacefully in the Evelyn Hospital, Cambridge. Funeral arrangements later.

CHIDLAW-ROBERTS. On December 21, 1985, Margaret Constance Monkton (Meg) at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, wife of the late Colonel "Bobby" Chidlaw-Roberts of the Sherwood Foresters. Twin sister of Mr Charles Blakeney, 4 Martins Close, Tenterden, Kent. Funeral service and committal at All Saints Church, Steep, Hampshire on Monday, December 30 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

CHRISTOPHER. – On December 19th, 1985, peacefully at home in her 88th year, Beatrice Maud (Gwen), widow of Captain John Christopher Dearnel mother of Janet and her husband John, and loving grandmother of Maximillian and Guy de Gaynesford, the last surviving daughter of Captain Edward Strike of Perthleven. May she rest in peace. Funeral service New Milton Parish Church, Hampshire, Monday, December 30th at 2.30 pm followed by cremation, Bournemouth.

CLARK On December 20th peacefully after a long illness, Colin Evelyn, loving husband of Isobel and devoted father of Alastair, Sue, Nicholas and Jon and grandpa to Sarah. Cremation has taken place. Donations in his memory if so desired to The Princess Alice Hospice, West End, Esher, Surrey, please.

COHEN, John Emeritus professor of Psychology, Manchester University, dearly loved husband of Rosemary, much loved loving father of Kathy, Geoff, Nicholas, Oliver and James. Beloved brother of Stephen, Monty, Sally, Lena and Miriam. So dear to all our hearts

DE COURCY on December 21st, peacefully after a long illness, Anthony John, ARIBA, of Shamley Green, Surrey, aged 59. Memorial service at Shamley Green Parish Church at 2 pm on Saturday, 4th January. No flowers by request, donations in lieu of flowers to The Royal Surrey County Hospital General Amenity Fund, c.o Mrs J P Cowper, 2 Elm Cottages, Enerton Road, Guildford GU2 5XX.

GIBBS.– On December 22 1985, very peacefully in a nursing home, Dorothy Agnes, aged 96 years, widow of Arthur Gibbs, loving mother of Mary, John, Alan and Peter, greatly loved grandmother and great grandmother. Cremation at Bournemouth crematorium on Monday December 30 at 3.15pm. No flowers please, but donations to R.N.I.B., c.o W. Smith & Sons, 339 Ecc, Wimborne Rd, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset.

GORDON on December 23, peacefully in St Matthew's Hospital, Northampton, Elizabeth Maud, wife of the late Sefton Gordon, CBE, Cremation service at The Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor, Northampton, on Tuesday, December 31st at 11.30 am.

GRANVILLE. Johan (nee Macgregor) dearly loved wife of Albert, mother of Christine and Sandy, sister of Catherine on Sunday 22nd December, 1985 after a long illness, borne with patience, and love to all who spoke with her. Service at St Katharine's Church, Knockholt, at 11am, Tuesday 31st December 1985, followed by burial. Family flowers only. Donations to South Bromley Hostels Care Organisation Hospital, Kent.

GREIFELL at his home Stemster, Halkirk on December 21, 1985, Lieut Victor Cyril Montagu DSO, DL, RN. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Victoria and grandfather of Lucy and Rupert. Funeral private, family flowers only. No letters please by his own request.

HARFORD. On December 21st, Anne Frances. Funeral on January 3rd, Putney Vale Cemetery, 10.30.

HARRIES – on Christmas eve, James Gaston Harries, CBE, peacefully at home with his family at Wittersham, Kent. Cremation private. No flowers by request but donations if desired to cancer research.

HOWE–On 26th December, The Dowager Countess Howe after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved mother of Janet and her husband John, and loving grandmother of Maximillian and Guy de Gaynesford, the last surviving daughter of Captain Edward Strike of Perthleven. May she rest in peace. Funeral service New Milton Parish Church, Hampshire, Monday, December 30th at 2.30 pm followed by cremation. Bournemouth.

CLARK On December 20th peacefully after a long illness, Colin Evelyn, loving husband of Isobel and devoted father of Alastair, Sue, Nicholas and Jon and grandpa to Sarah. Cremation has taken place. Donations in his memory if so desired to The Princess Alice Hospice, West End, Esher, Surrey, please.

COHEN, John Emeritus professor of Psychology, Manchester University, dearly loved husband of Rosemary, much loved loving father of Kathy, Geoff, Nicholas, Oliver and James. Beloved brother of Stephen, Monty, Sally, Lena and Miriam. So dear to all our hearts

DE COURCY on December 21st, peacefully after a long illness, Anthony John, ARIBA, of Shamley Green, Surrey, aged 59. Memorial service at Shamley Green Parish Church at 2 pm on Saturday, 4th January. No flowers by request, donations in lieu of flowers to The Royal Surrey County Hospital General Amenity Fund, c.o Mrs J P Cowper, 2 Elm Cottages, Enerton Road, Guildford GU2 5XX.

GIBBS.– On December 22 1985, very peacefully in a nursing home, Dorothy Agnes, aged 96 years, widow of Arthur Gibbs, loving mother of Mary, John, Alan and Peter, greatly loved grandmother and great grandmother. Cremation at Bournemouth crematorium on Monday December 30 at 3.15pm. No flowers please, but donations to R.N.I.B., c.o W. Smith & Sons, 339 Ecc, Wimborne Rd, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset.

GORDON on December 23, peacefully in St Matthew's Hospital, Northampton, Elizabeth Maud, wife of the late Sefton Gordon, CBE, Cremation service at The Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor, Northampton, on Tuesday, December 31st at 11.30 am.

GRANVILLE. Johan (nee Macgregor) dearly loved wife of Albert, mother of Christine and Sandy, sister of Catherine on Sunday 22nd December, 1985 after a long illness, borne with patience, and love to all who spoke with her. Service at St Katharine's Church, Knockholt, at 11am, Tuesday 31st December 1985, followed by burial. Family flowers only. Donations to South Bromley Hostels Care Organisation Hospital, Kent.

GREIFELL at his home Stemster, Halkirk on December 21, 1985, Lieut Victor Cyril Montagu DSO, DL, RN. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Victoria and grandfather of Lucy and Rupert. Funeral private, family flowers only. No letters please by his own request.

HARFORD. On December 21st, Anne Frances. Funeral on January 3rd, Putney Vale Cemetery, 10.30.

HARRIES – on Christmas eve, James Gaston Harries, CBE, peacefully at home with his family at Wittersham, Kent. Cremation private. No flowers by request but donations if desired to cancer research.

HOWE–On 26th December, The Dowager Countess Howe after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved mother of Janet and her husband John, and loving grandmother of Maximillian and Guy de Gaynesford, the last surviving daughter of Captain Edward Strike of Perthleven. May she rest in peace. Funeral service New Milton Parish Church, Hampshire, Monday, December 30th at 2.30 pm followed by cremation. Bournemouth.

DEATHS

PEARCE – On the 21st December suddenly, Erica Hollond, wife of Lord Peatre and daughter of Bertram Priestman RA., much loved wife, mother and grandmother.

RAYNE, John Merton – peacefully on December 23rd, aged 73, after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Anne and beloved father of Margaret, Mark and Andrew. Service at St Peter's Church, Farnborough, Hampshire, on Monday December 30th at 2.00pm.

SMITH. On December 21st 1985 suddenly at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Herne Bay, Grace Isabel (nee Tyrrell), aged 80 years, much loved wife of Selwyn of 31 Mickleburgh Avenue, Herne Bay. Funeral service at St Bartholomew's Church, Herne Bay, on December 31st at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Charing at 3pm. Flowers to A. Welch & Sons Funeral Service, 94 Station sRoad, Herne Bay.

STOPFORD-ADAMS peacefully on December 24th 1985 Averil Mary Florence (Molly) most loved wife of Derric. Funeral at St. James's Church, Ansty, Tuesday 31st December at 2 pm. Family flowers only.

TURNER.– On 22nd December 1985, peacefully in hospital, Scriven John Turner F.P.S., aged 69, beloved husband of Agnes. No flowers please. Donations to The Parkinson Society c/o A. Massey & Sons, 16-18, Lowlands Road, Harrow, Middlesex, 01 422 1688. Funeral service at St. Johns United Reform Church, Woodcock Hill, Norton on Friday 27th December at 10am, followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip at 11 am.

TURNER. – On Monday 23rd December, suddenly in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, Samuel Ian Turner (retired Captain for British Airways) 52. Much loved son and brother. Cremation at Mortlake, Monday 30th December at 3 o'clock.

VALENTINE. – On 20th December 1985, in hospital, Mary Valentine, widow of Hector and mother of Charles, Richard and Sarah. Much loved grandmother, mother and friend. Late of Lingfield Road, Wimbledon and St. Monance, Fife. Funeral at St. Johns Crematorium, Woking on Tuesday 31st December, at 10 o'clock.

WIGELSWORTH. – On December 22nd, 1985, peacefully in hospital of Cheadle, Cheshire, Robert Armfield Wigelsworth (Bob), aged 62 years, beloved husband of Pat, dearly loved father of Sarah and Helen, father-in-law of Peter and Rosamund and grandpa of Michael, Laura, Katherine and Jennifer. Service and committal at Stockport Crematorium on Tuesday, December 31st at 3pm. Enquiries and flowers to: Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd, Brook Road, Cheadle, Cheshire. Tel: 061-428 2097.

WILLIAMS.– On December 21st, Florence Evelyn, dearly loved mother of Zena of Brodawel Caerleon, Gwent.

WOOLDRIDGE on 21st December 1985 peacefully at home, Stanley John aged 59 years, dearly loved husband of Audrey and father of Janet Fisher. Funeral service at St Mary without-the-walls, Handbridge, Chester, on Friday, December 27th at 2.45pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

WORSLEY – On December 22nd, peacefully, Eileen Ruby Astley, widow of Ralph (Tim) Worsley, dearly beloved aunt, greataunt and friend. Funeral private. Donations to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thanksgiving service details to be announced later.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CONSTANTINOU, ARISTOS, a memorial service for the life of Aristos Constantinou will be held at St Sophia's Cathedral, Moscow Road, Bayswater W2 on Sunday 29th December 1985 at 1.15 pm. Relatives and friends please arrive by 1 pm.

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**

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

8.00 Ceefax.
9.05 **Chigley.** A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 9.20 **The Littlest Hobo** (r). 9.45 **The Hunter investigates the Counterfeit Newspaper Caper.**
9.50 **Play Chess.** Bill Hartston continues his chess course for beginners with a look at the roles of the queen and bishops. 10.00 **Charlie Brown.** Cartoon series. 10.25 **Willo the Wisp** with the voices of Kenneth Williams (r).
0.30 **Play School,** presented by Wayne Jackman with guests Floella Benjamin and Iain Lauchlan. 10.50 **A Merry Mirthworm Christmas.** An animated story.
1.15 **Disneyland's 30th Anniversary Celebration** presented by John Forsythe and Drew Barrymore. Among the guests are Julie Andrews, Julian Lennon, the Pointer Sisters and Donna Summer, as well as Disney's best-known characters. 12.15 Tom and Jerry cartoon. 12.20 **Junior Kick Start.** The Grand Final of the Lombard Tricity Trophy for young motorcycle riders.
2.50 **News** with Richard Whitmore. The weather details come from Ian McCaskill.
1.00 **Sport 85,** introduced by Harry Carpenter. Highlights of Sandy Lyle's victory in the British Open Golf Championship at Sandwich. 2.00 **Tom and Jerry.**
2.10 **Film: Ben Hur (1959).** A biblical epic which won 11 Oscars. Starring Charlton Heston, Stephen Boyd and Jack Hawkins. Ben Hur fights against the tyranny of the Romans and is sentenced to be a galley slave for his pains. The film climaxes in a spectacular chariot race between Ben Hur and the childhood friend who condemned him to the slave ship, Messala. Directed by William Wyler.
5.35 **Grange Hill for Christmas.** Why is Roland not looking forward to Christmas? And what are those noises coming from the furniture store? (Ceefax).
6.05 **News** with Richard Whitmore.
6.20 **Superdance 85.** A Disco Special presented by Gary Davies and Janice Long. Competitions for soloists and teams drawn from the National Association of Youth Clubs.
7.00 **Wogan.** Among tonight's guests is Andrew Lloyd Webber, with the first television performance of work from his new musical, The Phantom of the Opera, Shalane McCall, Jonathan Lynn, and the Brighton Bottle Orchestra.
7.40 **Christmas Blankety Blank.** Les Dawson's guests are Debbie Greenwood, John Inman, Alma Macdonald, Tom O'Connor, Mollie Sugden and Gary Wilmot (Ceefax).
8.15 **Dynasty.** *Blake Carrington* has to dig deep into his fortune to procure the release of his past and present wives from the Moldavian dungeon. Back in California, Fallon, still searching for her identity, meets Jeff's cousin, Miles Colby (Ceefax).
9.05 **News** with Richard Whitmore.
9.20 **Stanley Baxter's Christmas Hamper.** The comic man of many parts with another selection of funny characters.
10.10 **Film: High Risk (1981)** starring James Brolin, James Coburn, Anthony Quinn, Lindsay Wagner and Ernest Borgnine. Thriller about a group of four men who plan to raid the highly fortified Colombian villa of a leading drugs dealer. Directed by Stewart Raffill (Ceefax).
11.40 **Film: Suspicion* (1942)** starring Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine. A society girl marries a playboy and then discovers he is an embezzler and, maybe, a murderer. It is then that she begins to fear for her life. The role of the wife, Lina, won an Oscar for Joan Fontaine. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (Ceefax).
1.15 **Weather.**

TV-am

6.15 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anna Diamond and Mike Morris. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.17, 6.30, 7.00, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; exercises at 6.20 and 9.17; sport at 6.35 and 7.34; cartoon at 7.24; Nigel Dempster's gossip column at 8.17; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; a song from the Inspirational Choir at 8.55; Wacaday at 9.04

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by **Feggie Rock.** Adventures of a group of creatures who live beneath a lighthouse. With Fulton Mackay as the token human (r) 9.50 **Worldwise.** Computer geography quiz presented by David Jensen. 10.10 **The Merrie Melodies Show.** Cartoons
10.40 **Film: Volcano (1968)** starring Maximilian Schell, Brian Keith and Rossano Brazzi. Drama about the search for sunken treasure near the volcanic island of Krakatoa. On board *the treasure-seeking ship are* a group of 30 prisoners who are to be dumped on an adjacent island. But they attempt to mutiny, balloonists have to be rescued, *and on top* of all that Krakatoa begins to rumble. Directed by Bernard L. Kowalski
1.00 **News at One** with Leonard Parkin 1.20 **Thames News**
1.30 **Film: Digby – The Biggest Dog in the World (1973)** starring Jim Dale and Spike Milligan. Comedy about an Old English sheepdog that accidently swallows *milk that contains* powder developed to help vegetables grow to gigantic proportions. Directed by Joseph McGrath (Oracle)
3.10 **Chocky's Children.** A compilation of the children's serial shown earlier in the year about a 12-year old who has a friend who talks to him in his head. Starring Andrew Ellams
5.15 **Wild Rides.** Stomach turning rides on the biggest and best roller coasters in the United States. Accompanied by music from The Who, Jimi Hendrix, The Cars, Steve Miller, and Steely Dan
5.45 **News** with Martyn Lewis
6.00 **Thames news** with Andrew Gardner and Lindsay Charlton
6.15 **Police 5.** Shaw Taylor with clues to unsolved crimes in the London area
6.30 **The Grumbleweeds Christmas Show.** Seasonal songs and sketches from the mad-cap quintet
7.00 **Me and My Girl.** Simon thinks his luck is in when he receives an offer of a cheap holiday on which he can take his sick daughter
7.30 **Film: Northstar (1985)** starring Greg Evigan. A made-for-television science fiction story about an astronaut who, while working in space on the outside of a space shuttle, is bombarded by ultraviolet rays *from a violent solar eruption.* Back on Earth it is discovered that he has developed a high speed dexterity and an IQ of a 1000 when ever he is exposed *to sunlight. Directed by Peter* Levin (Oracle)
8.45 **News** with Sandy Gall
9.00 **Coming Through,** by Alan Plater. Kenneth Branagh and Helen Mirren star in this story *of the love affair* between D.H. Lawrence and Frieda Weekley, who abandoned her husband and three children to elope with Lawrence thereby starting *one of the greatest scandals of* the era (see Choice).
10.30 **Clive James in Dallas.** An *idiosyncratic guide to the* Texas city that is larger than life
11.30 *LWT news headlines* followed by **Status Quo – End of the Road.** The group's farewell concert, performed in July last year at the Milton Keynes Bowl
12.30 **Christmas Night Thoughts** with Alec McCowan and Paul Miles Kingston. *Ends at* 12.40.



Kenneth Branagh, Helen Mirren: *on ITV, 9.00 pm*

● **COMING THROUGH** (ITV, 9.00 pm), Alan Plater's contribution to the D H Lawrence centenary celebrations, erects an elaborate structure to support the simple, self-*supporting and self-evident fact that* Lawrence does not equal sex. The reasoning appears to be that *perhaps we won't get the message* if the film restricts itself exclusively to Lawrence's route to Frieda Weekely's bed via preparatory relationships with Jessie Chambers *and Alice Dax. So, Mr Plater has* also come up with a present-day fictional equivalent of the Lawrence-Frieda affair, making the two stories run in parallel somewhat in the manner of the film version of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* but with less disorientating results. *Coming Through will work best for* you if you can absorb such shocks as Lawrence, in 1912 Nottingham,

CHOICE

saying to Frieda: "I want that you should come and live with me and be my wife", followed by a quick cut to Nottingham station 1985 where the jobless *graduate who has tried* in vain to lure a young married woman into his bed, asks the girl in the news stand: "*Can I have a Guardian* please, love?
● **SWEET FA** (BBC 2, 3.30 pm), the BBC TV documentary that did the singing trio Fascinating Aida a power of good while *doing* BBC Records a power of harm, is repeated today. It was brave of the *Corporation to leap on to the torture* table again. Can the wounds really have healed so quickly?
● Best of today's films: two Launder/Gilliat movies, **Millions like *Us*** and **I See a Dark Stranger** (Channel 4, 3.05 and 10.45 pm) helped keep the flag flying for the *British film industry during, and* immediately after, the Second World War . . . **My Fair Lady** (BBC 2, 6.20 pm) *somehow enchants* the eye and ear much more than it did when first seen 20 years ago.
● *Recommended listening:* Anthony Thewaite's repeated assessment of Betjeman's poetry **The Teddy Bear and the Critics** (Radio 3, 7.30 pm); William Douglas Home's **The Secretary Bird,** *with a* fine cast headed by Michael Aldridge and Sheila Gish as the spouses at the crossroads (Radio 4, 2.00 pm); the St John's Day service of carols and readings worth tuning in to if only for the enchanting *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:* (Radio 3, 4.00 pm).

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.
11.25 **Film: Bundle of Joy (1956)** starring Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher. Shop assistant gets the sack at Christmas time but her luck changes when she discovers a baby on the steps of an orphanage. *After a series of* misunderstandings there is a happy ending to this light *musical tale.* Directed by Norman Taurog.
1.00 **The Crazy Gang: A Celebration.** An appreciation of the wit of the comics that *ruled the laughter waves for* more than three decades. With contributions from Tommy Trinder, Richard Murdoch, Arthur English, Pat Kirkwood, *Val Guest, Brian Johnston and* Anne Hart (r).
2.00 **What's Up, Chuck?.** Animator Chuck Jones selects cartoon featuring lesser known names *from his vast stable.*
2.30 **Three in the Wild.** The third and final film in the series *features Toran the Dartmoor* Pony who lives under the safe protection of his sire, the herd's lead stallion. When the stallion has an accident it is up to Toran to be strong *enough* to take his place (r).
3.30 **Sweet FA.** A showcase for the *considerable talents of the* singing female trio, Fascinating Aida (r). (see Choice).
4.10 **Film: Journey Into Fear*** (1943) starring Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten. Spy drama set in Turkey during the Second World War. An American arms expert on holiday in Istanbul has an *attempt made on his life* by an Axis agent. The head of the secret police in Turkey urges him to leave the country. Directed by Norman Foster, and, in part Orson Welles.
5.20 **The Freddie Mills Story.** James Hogg traces the rise and fall of the fairground fighter who became a world champion and died in *mysterious* circumstances 25 years ago. (First shown on BBC South).
6.20 **Film: My Fair Lady (1964)** starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn. Lavish musical version of Shaw's Pygmalion, the story of a *Covent Garden* flower girl who is taught correct English and passed of as a duchess. Directed by George Cukor (Ceefax).
9.05 **Entertainment USA.** Jonathan King reports from New York where he meets the city's *mayor, Ed Koch, and sex* therapist Dr Ruth Westheimer. Mr King also flips through 50 *years of classic cartoons.*
9.35 **Film: Deep Water (1983)** starring Peter Bongartz and Constance Engelbrecht. Patricia Highsmith's psychological *thriller about the* emotions of an outwardly loving and tolerant husband *towards his flirtatious wife.* Directed by Franz Peter Wirth. English subtitles.
11.35 **Film: Invitation to the Dance (1954)** starring Gene Kelly. Three separate stories, *Circus,* Ring Around the Rosy, and Sinbad the Sailor combining *ballet, pantomime and* animation. Directed and choreographed by Gene Kelly.
1.05 *Weather.*

CHANNEL 4

11.00 **Christ Stopped at Eboli.** Part *two of the four-part version of* Francesco Rosi's film about Carlo Levi, a young doctor who, in the 1930s, is exiled to a remote Italian mountain village from his home in Turin because of his open opposition to *fascism.*
12.00 **Film: Bim La Petit Ane* (1949)** The charming tale of an Arab boy whose only possession is a donkey. Fearing that this pet will be taken from him the boy makes off, with the animal in tow. Directed by Albert *Lamorisse.*
1.00 **Channel Four Racing** from Kempton Park. Brough Scott introduces coverage of the Ladbroke Novices' Handicap *hurdle (1.10); the Ladbroke* Handicap Chase (1.40); the Feltham Novices' Chase (2.10); and the Avenue Handicap hurdle (2.40).
3.05 **Film: Millions Like Us* (1943)** starring Eric Portman, Patricia Roc and Gordon Jackson. *Drama following the fortunes* of the Crowson family, split up by the arrival of the Second World War. Directed by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat.
5.00 **Citizen 2000.** The second of four programmes focuses on Joanne who lives with her *Protestant parents in a small* terraced house in east Belfast (Oracle).
5.30 **That's Street Entertainment 1985.** Highlights of the Time Out Street Entertainer of the Year Award.
6.30 **A Frame with Davis.** Steve Davis's guests this evening are Bernie Clifton and Bobby Davro (Oracle).
7.30 **'And Tonight Thank God It's Them Instead of You'.** The Tube's review of the "Year of *Live Aid" and Band Aid which* includes behind the scenes film of the Wembley concert *and a short documentary on* the making of the hit single Do They Know It's Christmas?
8.30 **Max Headroom.** A repeat of the fictional tale explaining the birth of Max.
9.40 **Tina Turner: Private Dancer Tour 1985.** Film of Tina Turner's *final concert at the* National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Her guests are David Bowie and Bryan Adams.
10.45 **Film: I See a Dark Stranger* (1945)** starring Deborah Kerr and Trevor Howard. A thriller, with light touches, about an *anti-British Irishwoman who,* unable to gain credence with the IRA in Dublin, joins forces *with a German undercover* agent and goes with him to England to help spring his accomplices from a British military prison. Directed by *Frank Launder.*
12.50 **The Telephone Box.** A short about a new telephone box that arrives *in a small Spanish* town. A man goes in to make a call but the line is not *connected. He tries to get out* of the booth but the door is stuck and not even the police and the fire brigade can get him out. Then a truck arrives *and four men jump out,* lift up the booth and cart it and the man to a somewhat macabre destination. Starring Jose Luis Lopez Vasquez as the *unfortunate man. Directed by* Antonio Mercero. Ends 1.25.

Radio 4

On long wave. † also VHF stereo.

5.55 Shipping.
6.00 News; Prelude.
6.30 News; Farming Today. 6.55 Weather.
7.00 News; Matins for the Feast of St John the Evangelist.† 7.30 News. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.25 Sport. Comical game (r).†
8.30 I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue.
9.00 News.
9.05 With Great Pleasure. The late Dame Celia Johnson's choice of poetry and prose (r).†
9.45 Strathinver. Award-winning portrait album of the people of a small Scottish country town in the years between VE Day, 1945 and the Coronation, 1953 (r).
10.30 A Sideways Look At . . . by Anthony Smith.
10.45 The Fosdyke Saga. Episode 10 (e).†
11.00 News; Travel.
11.05 Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley. (S) (r).†
12.00 News; Classic Features: Song of a Road. A radio ballad on the building of the London-Yorkshire motorway, told by the men who designed and built it.
12.30 A Small Country Living at Christmas. With Jeanne McMullen (r). 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 Home for Christmas. William Douglas Home's The Secretary Bird with Michael Aldridge, Sheila Gish, Edward de Souza, June Tobin and Melinda Walker.† A wife tells her husband that, after fifteen years of marriage, she is going to leave him. What does he do? Acquiesce? Or fight? Or both?†
3.30 Round Britain Quiz. Irene Thomas and Eric Korn challenge Bill Russell and Jack Jones.
4.00 News.
4.05 *The Four Seasons. Winter.* With Caroline Parsons.
4.45 *The Corncrake and the Lysander.* The last of Finlay J. Macdonald's memoirs of a Hebridean Boyhood.
5.00 PM: News Magazine.
5.35 The Fosdyke Saga. Episode 11.
5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Adrian Mole at Christmas. Mole of *Lifestyle with Nicholas Barnes* (r).
6.30 Paul Temple *and the Geneva* Mystery (5). With Peter Coke and Marjorie Westbury (r).
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Franglais. Soap opera with Miles Kington and team (r).
7.30 Scenes from A Voyage to the Indies. With Paul Scofield, Linda *Gardner and Maurice Denham* (r).
9.30 Family Portrait: The Midgley *Family. Marion Foster meets the* famous singing family (r).
10.10 Radio 4 Christmas Competition. An opportunity to hear the clues again.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime. A Christmas Carol the final episode of Dickens's story, read by Martin Jarvis and Denise Bryer. 10.29 Weather.
10.30 The World Tonight.
11.00 The Peace of Christmas. A meditation by The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool.
11.15 Incredible Flautists. William Bennett plays music by Mozart, Handel, Richard Rodney Bennett and Boehm.
11.30 Diary of a Provincial Lady by E. M. Delafield. Final episode. Read by Anna Massey.
12.00 News; Weather. 12.33 Shipping Forecast.

VHF available in England and S *Wales only) except:* 5.55-6.00am Weather, Travel. 155-2.00pm *Listening Corner. Christmas* Creatures: Camel, told by Dana.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Concert: Handel's Overture in D minor, arranged by Elgar (Pittsburgh SO); Bach's Concerto in F (New Bach Collegium Musicum, Leipzig); Aguado's Polonaise Op 2 No 2 (Bream, guitar); Mozart's Piano Concerto No 12 (Brendel/Chicago SO).† 8.00 News.
8.05 *Concert (Contd):* Berlioz's Love Scene, from Romeo and Juliet (Sydney SO); Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances (Andras Schiff, piano); Sibelius's Valse triste (Academy of Martin-in-the-Fields); Sakura, Sakura (Rampal, flute and Lily Laskine, harp); *Strauss's symphonic poem* Don Juan (Detroit SO).† 9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Ravel. Menuet sur le nom de Haydn (Crossley, piano); Piano Concerto in G (Michelangeli with the Philharmonia); Menuet antique (Crossley, piano); Piano Concerto in D, for left hand (Collard and French National Orchestra).*
10.00 Bach Cantatas: the No 133 (Leonhardt Consort/Collegium Vocale, Ghent/Hanover Boys' Choir/soloists Hennig, Jacobs, van Altena and van Egmond.)†
10.20 Clarinet and Piano: Einar Johannesson and Philip Jenkins play Nielsen's Fantasiestucke; Honegger's *Sonatine;* Brahms's Sonata in F minor, Op 120 No 1.†
11.00 Langham Chamber Orchestra (under Starek). Holst's St Paul's Suite; Roger's Lyrical Andante; Dvorak's Serenade in E, Op 22.†
11.50 Two pianos: Richard Markham and David Nettle play Robert Walker's Passacaglia; Grainger's Fantasy on Porgy and Bess.†
12.25 New York Philharmonic (under Mehta). Part one. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3; George Crumb's A Haunted Landscape.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Concert (contd): Mahler's Symphony No 5.†
2.15 Wind Quartets: Capricorn play Mozart's Flute Quartet in C, K 285b; Hummel's Clarinet Quartet in E flat.†
3.05 *Curzon plays Beethoven:* Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat (Radio Symphony *Orchestra of* Cologne).†
4.00 *The Word Made Flesh:* St John's Day carols and readings. From Westminster Abbey. Organist and Master of the Choristers is Simon Preston (see Choice).†
5.00 Tchaikovsky: A Fateful Gift (4) Marriage. With Mike Gwilym as the composer and Karen Archer as Antonina (r).†
5.00 Chopin: A recital by Ashkenazy.†
5.20 Music for Guitar: David Russell plays Giuliani's Grande Ouverture Op 61; Weiss's Suite *in D major; Santorsola's Choro;* Morel's Allegro. Sonatina.†
7.00 Bach: Christmas Oratorio. Cantata for the Third Day of Christmas (Collegium St Emmeram/Regensburger Domspatzen/soloists).†
7.30 *The Teddy Bear and the Critics:* An assessment of Sir John Betjemann by Anthony Thwaite. Contributors include Kingsley Amis, Philip Larkin, Peter Porter, John Sowle and Roy Fuller.(r)
8.15 Mozart and Bruckner: BBC *Philharmonic (under Herbig),* with Susan Milan (flute). Part one. *Mozart's Flute Concerto* No 1.†



Betjeman: Teddy Bear and the Critics (Radio 3, 7.30 pm



Anna Ford: she is on Radio 2 at 2.00 pm

8.45 Trollope on Tradesman: John Rowe with readings about haberdashers and horse-dealers.
9.00 *Concert (contd):* Bruckner's Symphony No 8.†
10.00 Crussell: Allegri String Quartet with Sarah Francis (oboe). Divertimento in C, Op 8.†
10.15 New Premises: Stephen Games's arts review (r).
11.00 Emyr Gales: a tribute to the pianist who died earlier this year. He plays the Beethoven Piano Concerto No 4, with the *Philharmonia under* Leopold Ludwig.†
11.40 Are You Still Awake? Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray in the second of Russell Davies's two-handers, set in a bedroom in Oxford (r).
11.57 News. 12.00 Closedown.

Radio 2

4.00am Colin Berry † 6.00 Ray Moore. † 8.05 Ken Bruce. † 10.30 Jimmy Young plus legal questions answered by Andrew Phillips. † 1.05pm David Jacobs. † 2.00 Anna Ford. † 3.30 Music All The Way featuring John Fox Orchestra and George Chisholm and His Gentlemen of Jazz. 4.00 David Hamilton. † 6.00 John Dunn recalling some of the 250 After Seven guests whom he has interviewed during the past year. 8.00 Friday Night is Music Night from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London, with guest singers Gemma Craven and Michael Dore, with the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Stephen Hill singers. 9.15 The Organist Entertains. A special concert recorded at the Playhouse Theatre, Manchester featuring Brian Sharp and Bryan Rodwell. 10.00 A Proper Charlie. Comedy starring Jack Smethurst as Charlie Garside, with David Ross, Madge Hindle and Betty Alberge (last of eight episodes). 10.30 Kenneth Alwyn presents some of his favourite music with his guest Christopher Warren-Green. 11.00 Late Night Friday. John Hosken reflects on some of the more unusual events of the past seven days. (Stereo from midnight). 1.00 am Nick Page presents Nightride. † 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music. †

Radio 1

News on the half hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12 midnight.
10.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Mark Read. 10.00 Simon Bates's Live And update. 12.30pm. Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson). 12.45 Gary Davies. 3.00 Paul Jordan. 5.30 Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson) 5.45 Bruno Brookes. 7.30 Andy Peebles. 10.00-12.00 The Friday Rock Show with Tommy Vance. † VHF Radios 1 & 2 4.00am. As Radio 2. 10.00pm. As Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am. As Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 News. 7.05 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 *Juke Box Duty.* 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Sounds of Strings. 8.30 Music Now. 9.00 News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 *This is Christmas.* 9.30 *Just Like You and Me.* 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Poets on Music. 10.00 *News.* 10.01 *Sing Gospel.* 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 11.30 Fairy Tales. 11.00 *News.* 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 11.26 A Letter From Northern Ireland. 11.30 Film Star. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz For The Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Space Force. 2.00 News. 2.01 Frank Sinatra: A Voice For All Seasons. 2.45 Letterbox. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Les Miserables. 4.00 News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 This Is Action. 5.00 News. 5.09 A Letter From Northern Ireland. 5.15 Sarah and Company. 8.00 News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 9.15 Music Now. 9.45 The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole. 10.00 *News.* 10.09 This Is Christmas. 10.25 A Letter From Northern Ireland. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Brotherhood of Brass. 11.30 Beethoven and the Violin. 12.00 News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Recording of the Week. 1.00 *News.* 1.01 Frank Sinatra: A Voice for All Seasons. 1.30 Sing Gospel. 1.45 Letterbox. 2.00 News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 Victor Hugo. 3.30 Space Force. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 That's Trad. 5.45 Victor Hugo. All times in GMT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/247m; VHF -90-92.5; **Radio 4:** 200kHz 1500m; VHF -92-95; **LBC** 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; **BBC Radio London** 1458kHz/206m. VHF 94.9; **World Service** MF 648kHz/463m.



Clive James: ITV, 10.30 pm

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Granada *Reports. News.* 6.00-6.30 Granada Reports. 12.35am T. J. Hooker. 1.25 Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Border News. 6.00-6.30 Lookaround Friday. 12.30am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Calendar Headlines. 6.00-6.30 Calendar. 12.30am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 TSW News. 6.00-6.30 Today South West. 12.30am Postscript. Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am First Thing. 9.30-9.50 Fraggle Rock. 1.20pm-1.30 *News.* 6.00-6.30 North Tonight. 12.30am News, Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Scottish News. 6.00 News and Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Funny You Should Say That. 12.30am Late Call. 12.35 Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Anglia News. 6.00-6.30 About Anglia. 12.30am Mystery of Christmas, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Channel News. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.15-6.30 Video Club. 12.30am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 1.20pm Ulster News. 1.25-1.30 Special Ulster Television Programmes. 6.03-6.30 Lifestyles. 12.30am News, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am North East News. 9.30-9.50 Fraggle Rock. 1.20pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 6.00 News. 6.05-7.00 The Peoples Boat. Aid for Sudan and Ethiopia. 12.30am Christian Calendar. 12.35 Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.30 Used Cars. 12.40am Closedown.

S4C Starts 12.15pm Countdown. 1.00 Racing from Kempton Park. 3.00 Film: Heidi * (Shirley Temple). 4.35 Ston Sbri. 4.50 Robin Goch. 5.00 Mica. 5.30 Frame with Davis. 6.00 Treasure Hunt Special. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.15 Aled Jones: Y Rhyfeddod Prin. 8.15 Pobol y Cym. 8.45 Adlais o'r Wyl. 9.45 *Fonteyn and Nureyev: The Perfect* Partnership. 11.40 Film: Bulldog Drummond's Secret Police. * (John Howard). 12.45am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. * Black and white. (r) Repeat

ENTERTAINMENTS

CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office. When telephoning see prefix 01 only when outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 5 836 3161 CC 240 5258
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tom't 7.00 Don Giovanni. Tomor 7.00 Cosi fan tutte.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Covent Garden WC2. 01-240 1066/1911. Access, Visa, Diners Club. Saturday nite 01-836 3300. Mon-Sat 10am-8pm. Eve night seats avail from 10am on the day. THE ROYAL BALLET Tom't 7.30 The NUTCRACKER. Tomor 1.30 The Royal Ballet. Info 01-240 9816. The ROYAL OPERA Tomor 7.30 Le nozze di Figaro.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916
SADLER'S WELLS
ROYAL BALLET
From 31 Dec to 11 Jan

CONCERTS

BARBICAN HALL Barbican Centre, EC2. 01-638 8891/628 8795.
Today 3.00 MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET. Orchestra of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. Philharmonic Orchestra. Barry Wordsworth cond. Barry Douglas piano. Tomor 12 noon & 3.00 THE MESSIAH. Howard Blaker cond. Tomor 7.45 Chamber Love Classics. Sun 3.00 Cameras Lysa Gawad, Sir Yehudi Menuhin violin. 7.30 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Nicholas Cleobury cond. Howard Shelley piano.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL (01-589 8212) CC (589 8465). Tonight 7.30pm AN EVENING OF KHACHATURIAN. London Symphony Orchestra, Lorin Maazel conductor, Alberto Portugheis.

THEATRES

CREDIT CARD bkgs 01-379 6433. Theatre, Concerts, Sport. Many without booking fees TICKETMASTER 9am-9pm. Sun 12 noon-8pm

ADELPHI 836 7611, or 240 7911/4 CC 741 9999/836 7358/379 6433. Group sales 930 6123.
24 Hr 7 Day CC 240 7200
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD WINNER
BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL
ROBERT LINDSAY
BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL
FRANK THORNTON
EMMA THOMPSON
DIRECTED BY MIKE ORMEROD
Nightly at 7.30. Mats Wed 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00
Bill Shannon played by Paul Greaves.
Wed Mats only.
SPECIAL MAT TODAY at 2.30

ALBERY. 01-836 3878 CC 379 6565, CC 379 6433, 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123, 836 3962. Eves Mon-Fri 7.15. Sats 2.0 & 7.30pm.
ANTONY SHAER
Olivier Awards 1985
ACTOR OF THE YEAR
London Standard Awards 1985
TORCH SONG TRILOGY
by Harvey Fierstein
"BRILLIANTLY FUNNY" Obs.

ALDWYCH THEATRE
01-836 6404/ 0641
01-379 6233 CC accepted.
Mon-Sat 2.30 & 7.30pm
BONNIE LANGFORD JOSS ACKLAND
in
J. M. BARRIE'S
PETER PAN
THE MUSICAL
Group Sales 01-930 6123
CC Sales Inc Sun 01-741 9999 or 72nt Cst 01-240 7200.

AMBASSADORS THEATRE, West St. WC2. 01-836 6111. CC 01-836 1171/ 01-741 9999 Group Sales 01-930 6123.
TODAY & TOMOR 5.0 & 8.45. Sats Eves Mon-Fri at 8 pm. Thurs Mat 2.45 pm. Sats at 5.0 & 8.30 pm
THE THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
DINSDALE LANDEN LIZA GODDARD
JOHN QUAYLE
CAROLINE HAWKINS STEPHEN LEIGHTON
and GEOFFREY SUMNER
in
WIFE BEGINS AT FORTY
A delightful new comedy
Sat Eve perfs sold out until mid-Jan.

APOLLO THEATRE cc 437 2663/4 434 2598/5. 24hr 7-day cc bookings First Call 240 7200.
PENELOPE KEITH
MARK KINGSTON
in
THE DRAGON'S TAIL
"Funny & entertaining" City Limits
A new play by Douglas Watkinson
Directed by Michael Rudman
Eves Mon-Fri 7.30 Thurs Mat 3.00 Sats 5.0 & 8.15. Group Sales 01-930 6123

APOLLO VICTORIA SW 828 8665 CC 630 6262 Grp Sales 930 6123
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Directed by
Richard STILGOE Trevor NUNN
Lyrics by
"A TREAT SURPASSES ANYTHING AROUND IN EVERY DIMENSION" D Exp.
Eves 7.45 Mat Thur & Sat 3.00
Box office open 10am-6pm
BOOKINGS FOR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES AT £7.50 ON THESE DATES ONLY: OLD AGE PENSIONERS - AVAILABLE UNTIL 1PM ON THE DAY OF PERFORMANCE - CONCESSIONARY RATES - £4.50 for CHILDREN AT THE SEATS MARKED STUDENTS AT THE DOOR AT £5.00 FOR ANY PERF WHEN AVAILABLE.

BUSH THEATRE 743 3584. A PRAYER FOR WINGS by Sean Mathias. "One of the best new plays on the Fringe" Obs. Tonight 8pm.

ASTORIA THEATRE Box Off., cc & Groups 01-734 4287 437 8772
THE OUTSTANDING
MUSICAL
LENNON
A celebration of the life and music of John Lennon. "WONDERFUL. REALLY LOVED IT" Mail On Sun. "THEY COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER" CYNTHIA LENNON
"WAS UP THERE" Sun. "CHEERING WITH EVERYONE ELSE AT THE END" Standard
Additional mat Sun at 4.00. Eves Tues to Sat 8.00. Mats Sat & Sunday 4.00. Extra Mat Today at 4.00.

BARBICAN 01-628 8795/01-638 8891 cc (Mon-Sun 10am-8pm)
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
BARBICAN THEATRE tom't 7.30 tomor 2.00 & 7.30 AS YOU LIKE IT "enormously spell-binding" Times (extns 10 Jan)
THE FIT tom't, tomor 7.30 MELONS, a new play by Bernard Pomerance, the award-winning author of The Elephant Man (returns 10 Jan)
EXTRA PERFS OF FULL REPERTOIRE 10-22 MARCH
RSC also at Comedy & Palace.

GLOUCESTER TH, Gordon St. WC1. 387 9629, CC 380 1463. £5. £6. Until Jan 4. Eves 8pm. 3 mat.
HARVEY & THE WALLBANGERS
New Show; Park The Tiger.

BLOOMSBURY TH, Gordon St. WC1. 387 9629, CC 380 1463.
Until Jan 11. 11am & 2.30pm
THE GINGERBREAD MAN
Mon-Thurs 24-30. Fri-Sun £5.50.

COMEDY 5 930 2578 CC 836 1438
Theatre closed Dec 24 & 25 but booking open Dec 24 on Keith Prowse 741 9999 (240 7200 7 day/24 hour). Grp Sales 930 6123.
Eves 8.0. Wed Mats 3.0.
Sats 5.0 & 8.30.
New Year's day at 3.0 & 8.0.
"Reworking of commercial" Tms
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO's
CAMILLE
by Tom Cairns. Dir Ron Daniels
"THERE IS NOTHING TO BEAT THIS." Obs. "FRANCES BARBER'S MARVELLOUS CAMILLE" Sn Exp. "A COMPELLING EVENING" N Sinman.
RSC also at the Barbican

COTTESLOE 5 928 2252 CC (National Theatre's small auditorium). Tom't Mat 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30. THE ROAD TO MECCA by Athol Fugard.

CRITERION 5 930 3216, CC 379 6565/379 6433/741 9999. Group sales 930 6123. Eves 8.00 Mat Thurs 2.30. Sat 5.30 and 8.30.
"BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST" D. Mail
The Theatre of Comedy Company
DINSDALE LANDEN JEFFREY HOLLAND
CAROLINE BERNARD BRESSLAW
LINDA HELEN
HAYDEN GILL
PAUL SAM
DARROW KELLY
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!
Written and directed by
RAY COONEY

DONMAR WAREHO

هكذا من الأصل

Zulu battle with rival tribe leaves 53 dead

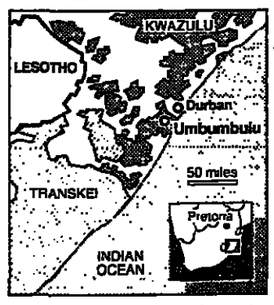
From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The situation was tense yesterday and there were growing fears of further clashes between Zulus and Xhosa-speaking Pondos south of Durban after the fighting at Christmas Eve which left at least 53 people dead and scores wounded in one of the worst inter-tribal battles in recent years.

As the fighting raged, hundreds of women and children fled their homes in the rugged Umbumbulu area, part of the KwaZulu tribal "homeland", and yesterday were being cared for by the Red Cross and local clinics. Refugees said the death toll was much higher than the official figure.

Soem 3,000 Pondos and 2,000 Zulus were involved in the fighting, according to an estimate by the local police. their weapons included spears, hatchets, knoberries (clubs with a wooden knot), shotguns and fearsome home-made firearms fashioned from iron pipes with trigger mechanisms activated by elastic bands.

Riot police were yesterday patrolling the area, much of it



rugged bush terrain, where the fighting took place.

Zulus and Pondos have been competing, and from time to time fighting, for decades for the land left them by the white man. The latest violent episode appears to have no direct link with the politically motivated unrest that has swept other part of the country for the past 16 months, claiming about 1,000 lives.

Pondos, who come from the Xhosa-speaking Transkei to the south, have been drawn north to the Umbumbulu area, which falls within traditional Zulu territory, by the growth of industry around Durban and the hope of finding employment there which is not available in their poverty-stricken rural homeland.

In recent years, the northward migration of Pondos has increased hugely and the population in the Umbumbulu area is now reported to be rising by 16 per cent annually. Pressure on land and water supplies is acute, and many Zulus feel their traditional rights are being encroached upon by Pondo interlopers.

Last month, an estimated 37 people were killed in clashes in the same area in which Pondos were driven from a shanty settlement, known as Malagazi. They moved to another shanty zone called Kwamakhutu, where the violence appears to have started on Christmas Eve.

According to one version, Zulus lined up outside Pondo shacks and challenged them to fight, an invitation to which the Pondos responded with enthusiasm. A Red Cross worker, however, said she thought the fighting had beeen triggered by a "domestic argument" over a woman.

Meanwhile, violence of the more familiar political kind flared up during Christmas night in the township of Mbekweni near Paarl in the Cape, where three people died in clashes between the United Democratic Front and the rival Azanian People's Organisation, according to the police.

They were among at least nine deaths reported, in addition to the Durban tribal fighting, from various parts of the country during the Christmas week beginning on Monday.

In Cape Town Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress, Mr Nelson Mandela, visited her husband in Pollsmoor prison on Christmas Day and again yesterday. Mrs Mandela said afterwards that he husband was being kept in isolation in the prison's hospital section.

Mrs Mandela herself faces charges for contravening a government decree prohibiting her from living in her home in Soweto.



Pondo tribesmen with an assortment of home-made weapons prepared for fresh troubles in the South African settlement of Kwamakhutu yesterday.

Hundreds of Kurds die in Iraqi push

By Nicholas Ashford and Hazhir Teimourian

Iraqi forces have launched a military campaign against Kurdish civilians in the north of the country, reportedly killing at least 300 people over the past two-and-a-half months.

The heaviest bloodshed is said to have occurred in the city of Sulaymaniyah, about 130 miles north of Baghdad, where large numbers of civilians, army deserters and draft dodgers as well as real or suspected members of the Kurdish Pesh Merga forces and their families, have been arrested and, in many cases, summarily executed.

Violent incidents have been reported in several other cities, including Arbil Mosul and Kirkuk. Accounts of repression have been received from numerous sources, including the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which has been fighting for a measure of autonomy for the country's three million Kurds, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Amnesty International, which has received reports of extra-judicial executions and random arrests, has called on President Saddam Hussein for a thorough investigation.

The Foreign Office confirmed that a new offensive was under way in Kurdistan, but had no details of specific incidents.

Reports claiming that troops were supported by the Jordanian Army, which has units in Iraq, and fighters in the Palestine Liberation Organization, have been firmly denied.

According to unconfirmed reported reaching Amnesty International, ten people were executed in Sulaymaniyah in mid-October after two Iraqi flight officers were killed by guerrillas.

The ten were allegedly lined up outside a public bar and shot. Government troops were then said to have raised a number of houses to the ground with bulldozers.

Later around 20,000 troops reportedly carried out house-to-house searches, for deserters, draft dodgers and members of the Pesh Merga. Houses in which they were found hiding were destroyed.

Holiday chaos as temperatures fall

Continued from page 1

The Association of British Insurers said that most household policies should cover flood and storm damage. Householders were advised to keep a record of emergency expenses incurred on repairs

The flooding, together with strong gales in many parts, made conditions on rivers and at sea difficult for sports enthusiasts. A lifeboat was launched to rescue a windsurfer who got into difficulties off Southend-on-Sea, Essex, in wind conditions assessed at storm force 10.

Meanwhile, two teenage boys conoeing at Keynsham marina, near Bath, helped rescue a boat owner, Mr Eddy Clail, aged 41, whose houseboat was stranded near a weir, with floodwater three feet above normal.

Matthew Febry, the European under-14 white-water canoe champion, and his brother Christopher, aged 18, helped firemen take ropes out to Mr Clail's vessel.

On the Essex coast, 30 boats were dragged from their moorings.

The gales caused disruption to power supplies in East Anglia. Power lines were brought down at many places along the A12 in Suffolk, and along the north-east Essex coast.

Sporting fixtures, serious and not-so, were also affected. Five Canon League matches were postponed, and stewards called off racing at Huntingdom after an inspection of the course.

But the bad weather did not deter some 900 people from racing into the sea at Sunderland, in a charity dip arranged by the local Lions club.

In sussex, meanwhile, rain washed out the Christmas Day cricket match at Brighton for only the fith time in 45 years.

The London Weather Centre last night described the holiday period as "one of the wettest on record in the south of England".

● Forecast: Dry and increasingly cold in most of Britain, with snow, some drfiting, in Scotland and the north-east of England, slowly spreading south on high ground.

Weather details, Information Service, below.

Europeans' firmer work offer

Continued from page 1

minister, that they did not meet Indian safety standards. A large part of Westland's difficulties have arisen from the failure of the company to achieve large sales of the W30.

The revised European proposals for providing a short-term work load for Westland are expected to be available for consideration by the Westland board on Monday. If the board were to be satisfied on this aspect of the offer, it could create a climate in which the directors might conclude, although not necessarily on Monday, that the European offer is the best available

Sources close to Westland already acknowledge that the European proposals for the capital reconstruction of the company are very attractive. Mr Michael Baughan, of Lavard Bros, who are advising the Westland board, said that if the European offer of work was improved, that was something the board would have to look at "extremely carefily".

Westland denies air jobs at risk

Continued from page 1

Mr Mates asked: "Is there any truth that up to £2 million of British work and jobs per helicopter will be transferred to the USA? Has Sikorsky actually guaranteed any work at all to Westland in the event that the British Government does not buy Black Hawks?

"Why do Westland assume that they can sell Black Hawks in Europe when Sikorsky has failed totally in the past 10 years, and the British Government has made clear it is not going to buy any?"

Ministers fears that once Sikorsky has moved in, the threat of job losses at Westland – in an area where there are a significant number of marginal Tory constituencies – would be used to pressure the Ministry of Defence to buy Black Hawk.

Mr Mates also asked whether Sikorsky would be any more reliable as partners with Westland than they had been with Shorts of Belfast, who had signed a memorandum of understanding with Sikorsky for a licence to build any Black Hawks which might be ordered by the Ministry of Defence.

Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, wrote to the Prime Minister yesterday, asking her to clear up the "sorry saga of confusion, squabbling and dithering" over Westland. He said: "I propose that it is time for the Government to act to secure the British national interest by acquiring a substantial holding in the company so that the future of the company is not left to chance." **Kenneth Fleet, page 15**

Heart-and-lung patient 'well'

Mrs Lucy Scott-Taggart, aged 35, an innkeeper, of the Hunter's Inn, Longdon, near Tewksbury, Gloucestershire, yesterday ate breakfast little more that 24 hours after her combined heart and lung transplant operation.

She was the ninth to undergo the operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire. A hospital spokesman said she was "progressing well".

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

In London

Music

Concert by the John Williams Trio: sax, piano and double bass; Foyer, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, 12.30.

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Barry Douglas (piano); works by Rossini, Grieg, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak; Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, 7.45.

Talks, lectures

Where do comets fit in to the astronomical scheme? What will we learn from Giotto's encounter with Halley's Comet?, 2.30; The Christmas Star – the night sky during Christmas, 3.30; Planetarium, Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

Light entertainment: Light, sight and colour – talk with demonstrations, by Anthony Wilson for children aged 8 to 12 and their families; Science Museum, South Kensington, 3.

Masterpieces of Persian, Turkish and Mughal painting, 12; Manuscript treasures from India, 2, both by Barbara Brend; meet Front Hall, British Museum building, Great Russell St.

General

Ten Day Wonder – Christmas entertainment for children – workshops, 11; childrens shows, 2.30; Purcell Room, South Bank, (daily until Jan 5).

Roald Dahl reading from his new and not yet published work; Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, 6.

Exhibitions in progress

Work by Kurt Schwitters; Tate Gallery, Millbank; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.50 (ends Jan 5).

Halley's Comet in history; British Museum, Great Russell St, WC1; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 6 (ends May 5).

Prizewinning entries in Wildlife Photographer of the Year 1985; Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2.30 to 6 (ends Jan 3).

Fabergé from the Royal Collection; The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 16).

Sales

Starting today

London:

Aquascutum; Army & Navy (Victoria); Austin Reed (all branches)' Bally (all branches); British Home Stores; Burberry; D H Evans (all branches); Dickens & Jones (Regent Street & Richmond); Fenwicks; Jaegar (all branches); Liberty; Scotch House (all branches); Selfridges; Simpson; Laura Ashley (all branches); Debenhams (all branches); Halfords.

Harvey Nichols, Fortnum and Mason, Heales, Lilly Whites.

Provincial:

Liverpool: Binns; Bristol: Debenhams, Dingles, Woolworths; Bath: Woolworths, Owen and Owen, Jollys; Edinburgh: John Lewis, Jenners; Sheffield: Debenhams, Atkinsons.

In progress:

Edinburgh: British Home Stores, Debenhams, Burberry; Newcastle: Co-op Hypermarket; Liverpool: Littlewoods.

Anniversaries

Births: **Johannes Kepler**, astronomer, Weilder Stadt, Germany, 1571; **Louis Pasteur**, Dole France, 1822.

Deaths: **Thomas Guy**, founder of Guy's Hospital, London, 1724; **Joanna Southcott**, religious zealot, London 1814; **Charles Lamb**, Edmonton, Middlesex, 1834; **Max Beckmann**, Expressionist painter, New York, 1950; **Lester Pearson**, prime minister of Canada, 1963-68, Ottowa, 1972.

Today is the **Feast of Saint John the Apostle.**

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● *Some Times Portfolio cards include minor* misprints in the instructions on the reverse side These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not effected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

● Rules will appear again in Friday's paper

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Children's books – hardback

Some recommendations from 1985

FOR YOUNGER READERS

A Child's Garden of Verses, by Robert Louis Stevenson; illustrated by Michael Foreman (Gollancz, £6.95)

The Cut-Ups, by James Marshall (Bodley Head, £5.50)

Peekaboo!, by Mathew Price and Jean Claverie (Walker, £4.95)

Sing a Song of Sixpence, illustrated by Tracey Campbell Pearson (Bodley Head, £5.25)

Tomie de Paola's Mother Goose (Methuen, £8.95)

FOR OLDER READERS

Drift, by William Mayne (Cape, £6.95)

The Finding, by Nina Bawden (Gollancz, £6.95)

Gaffer Samson's Luck, by Jill Paton Walsh; illustrated by Brock Cole (Viking Kestrel, £6.50)

Messages; a book of poems, compiled by Naomi Lewis (Faber, £7.95)

The One-Eyed Cat, by Paula Fox (Dent, £6.95)

BA

Food prices

Few people, if any, have much incentive to think seriously about food in the days after Christmas. But families and guests still have to be fed and those responsible for feeding them will be looking for cheap simple dishes which do not take a lot of preparation. Shepherds pie or stews are obvious examples. The former, as its name indicates, used to be made from left over mutton but is now invariably made from minced beef, which at around £1.15 a lb, is excellent value. Stews can be expanded to feed almost any number of people; stewing steak costs about £1.45 a lb. English lamb compares favourably in price with New Zealand lamb at around £1.10 for a whole leg, £1.40 for loin chops and £120 and £1.35 for boneless shoulder.

Cold left-overs can be brightened up with a salad. The ingredients are nowadays freely available all the year round, and best buys included radish, Spanish and Canary Island tomatoes at 45-55p a lb, and cucumbers at 50-70p each, depending on size. Chinese leaves at 20-36p a lb make an excellent and economical substitute for lettuce. Brussels sprouts are excellent quality at 32-40p a lb, in spite of a relatively poor crop (the small ones may be more expensive and less good value); also primo cabbage 10-25p a lb and calabrese 50-75p a lb. Good quality root vegetables include carrots 8-14p, leeks 25-45p, parsnips 14-25p, swedes 8-15p and turnips 15-25p a lb.

Citrus fruit are a traditional seasonal fare at this time of year and are probably the best buy as well. Grapefruit from a wide variety of countries range from 15p to 35p, depending on size, and oranges from 7-28p each. Satsumas and clementines are 30-45p a lb. Other good buys include *Cox apples* 30-55p a lb (home grown are superior to imports), sweet Russsets 25-35p

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.05
Austria Sch	28.20	24.80
Belgium Fr	78.45	72.85
Canada $	2.052	1.972
Denmark Kr	13.54	12.84
Finland Mkk	8.14	7.74
France Fr	11.37	10.82
Germany DM	3.71	3.53
Greece Dr	285.00	256.00
Hong Kong $	11.40	10.90
Ireland Pt	1.21	1.15
Italy Lire	2535.00	2405.00
Japan Yen	303.00	287.00
Netherlands Gld	4.18	3.98
Norway Kr	11.37	10.82
Portugal Esc	237.00	225.00
South Africa Rd	4.10	3.65
Spain Pts	229.00	217.00
Sweden Kr	11.42	10.87
Switzerland Fr	3.12	2.98
USA $	1.49	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	555.00	476.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 378.4

London: The *FT* Index closed up 4.9 on Tuesday at 1113.5

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 4.59 on Tuesday at 1528.74.

Travel news

Pre-recorded travel information on **Travel-rail**: 01-246 8030; **road**: 01-246 8031; **sea**: 01-246 8032; **air**: 01-246 8033.

Road

The Midlands: M5: Contraflow between junction 2 (Birmingham W) and 3 (Halesowen A456). M5: Widening work between junction 4 (A38 Bromsgrove) and (A38 Droitwich); lanes closed each way; no northbound access at junction 5; long delays until February 1986. A34: Major roadworks on the Warwickshire-Stratford-Shipston road in Stratford and Aldermínster, long delays.

Wales and West: M4: Two sets of contraflow between junctions 22 and 24 (Chepstow to Newport) changeable; delays at times. M5: Hard shoulder inside lane closed southbound at junction 10 (Cheltenham). Inside and centre lanes closed on both carriageways between junction 26 (Wellington) Taunton and junction 27 (Tiverton/Wellington). A487: Traffic lights in use (24 hours) N of Abraevern, Dyfed. A465: Roadworks at Taff Fawr viaduct, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

The North: M61: Balcow Bridge: Lane closures until 1986 at junction with link on M61, Walton Summit. M63/M62-Eccles interchange, Greater Manchester: Widening work N of Barton Bridge. M18: Full closure of the Doncaster-Sheffield link road until March 1986. M180: Contraflow between junction 3 (M180/M181 and junction 4 (Ermine Street interchange), Scunthorpe. M18: Slip road to M1 northbound closed at junction 32 (Doncaster).

Scotland: M8. Eastbound lane closures W of junction 5 (Shotts Hill). M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 3 (Hamilton/Motherwell/Larkhall); two-way on northbound carriageway; also northbound carriageway closed N of access to Blackwood. M73: Outside lane closed at junction 2 (northbound link to M8) near Glasgow.

Rail

December 27: A Friday service will start from around 8am but some peak hour trains will not run.

December 28: Normal Saturday service.

December 29: Normal Sunday service.

December 30: Monday service with relief trains for returning travellers although some business trains will not run.

December 31: Tuesday service: some business trains cancelled: extra services on some routes particularly to Scotland. No overnight trains.

Top video rentals

1-(2) Gremlins
2-(1) Beverly Hills Cop
3-(3) The Terminator
4-(4) Runaway
5-(5) The Last Starfighter
6-(7) The Killing Fields
7-(6) Missing in Action
8-(8) Exterminator 2
9 (10) Starman
10 (-) Commando Leopard
Supplied by *Video Business*

Weather forecast

A very cold northerly airstream covers all districts.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, central N England, East Anglia, Midlands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind N light or moderate, locally fresh at first; max temp 3C (37F).

E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Sunny intervals scattered snow showers near coasts; wind NW moderate or fresh, max temp 3C (37F).

Channel Islands: Sunny intervals scattered sleet or snow showers; wind NE moderate or fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

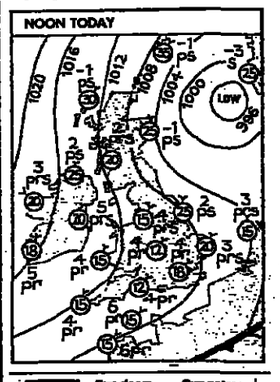
SW England, Wales: Sunny intervals, scattered snow showers later near coasts; wind N light or moderate; max temp 5C (41F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, snow showers, chiefly near coasts; wind N light or moderate; max temp 3C (37F).

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, snow showers, some heavy, drifting in places; wind N moderate or fresh, locally strong; max temp 1C (34F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Very cold, snow showers, chiefly in the N and E.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE strong to gale force, snow showers; visibility good; sea state rough or very rough.



Sun rises: 8.06 am Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets: 8.49 am Moon rises: 3.57 pm
Full moon: 7.30 am.

Lighting-up time

London 4.27 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.37 pm to 7.48 am
Edinburgh 4.14 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.26 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.56 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	f	3	37	Guernsey	c	8	46
Birmingham	c	4	39	Inverness			
Blackpool	s	4	39	Jersey	c	9	48
Bristol	r	5	41	London	r	8	43
Cardiff	c	5	41	Manchester	c	4	39
Edinburgh	f	2	36	Newcastle	c	4	39
Glasgow	f	2	36	Nonaldsway	f	4	39

London

Christmas Day: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 91 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.14in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 999.7 millibars

Boxing Day: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 83 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 997.3 millibars

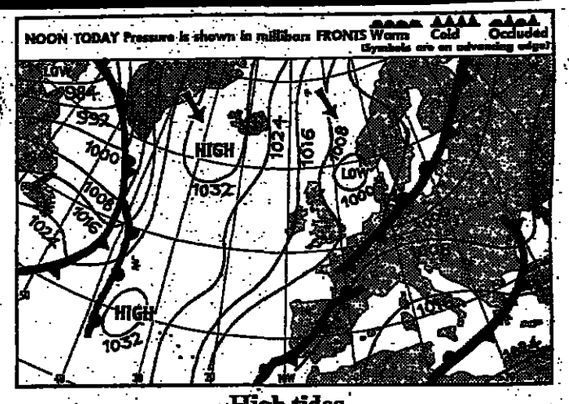
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Christmas Day: Highest day temp: Guernsey11C (52F); lowest day max: Aviemore3C (37F); highest rainfall: Yeovilton1.22in; highest sunshine: Colwyn Bay3.8hr

Boxing Day: Highest day temp: Jersey11C (52F); lowest day max: Lerwick–1C (30F); highest rainfall: Chacborn1.48in; highest sunshine: Morecombe3.7hr.

Weather forecast



High tides

YESTERDAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.03	6.5	1.19	6.4	London Bridge	1.38	6.6	1.57	6.6
Aberdeen	12.32	3.7	12.58	4.0	Aberdeen	1.12	3.9	1.36	4.0
Avonmouth	6.31	12.0	6.55	12.1	Avonmouth	7.09	12.2	7.33	12.1
Belfast	10.30	3.2	10.45	3.1	Belfast	11.05	3.3	11.19	3.0
Cardiff	6.15	11.2	6.40	11.2	Cardiff	6.54	11.3	7.18	11.2
Devonport	5.02	5.2	5.21	5.1	Devonport	5.42	5.3	6.02	5.1
Dover	10.33	6.1	10.59	6.2	Dover	11.06	6.1	11.32	6.3
Falmouth	4.32	5.0	4.51	4.9	Falmouth	5.12	5.1	5.32	4.9
Glasgow	12.15	4.5	12.21	4.8	Glasgow	12.54	4.6	12.53	4.9
Harwich	11.12	3.6	11.38	3.7	Harwich	11.48	3.7		
Holyhead	9.48	7.1	10.00	6.9	Holyhead	10.17	6.9	10.35	5.1
Hull	5.37	6.6	5.56	6.7	Hull	6.15	6.7	6.29	6.8
Ilfracombe	5.12	8.3	5.33	8.3	Ilfracombe	5.49	8.5	6.10	8.4
Leith	1.45	4.9	2.12	5.0	Leith	2.24	5.0	2.47	5.1
Liverpool	10.35	8.5	10.52	8.5	Liverpool	11.11	8.7	11.29	8.6
Lowestoft	8.44	2.2	9.08	2.3	Lowestoft	9.25	2.2	9.36	2.4
Margate	11.25	4.3	11.44	4.5	Margate			12.04	4.4
Milford Haven	5.34	6.3	5.54	6.2	Milford Haven	6.11	6.4	6.31	6.3
Newquay	4.25	5.3	4.46	5.3	Newquay	5.01	6.5	5.21	6.4
Oban	5.02	3.6	5.28	3.7	Oban	5.35	3.7	6.00	3.6
Penzance	4.01	5.5	4.19	5.2	Penzance	4.38	5.4	4.57	5.2
Portland	6.01	2.0	6.27	1.8	Portland	6.45	2.0	7.09	1.9
Portsmouth	10.48	4.4	11.14	4.3	Portsmouth	11.22	4.4	11.49	4.3
Shoreham	10.30	5.8	10.57	5.8	Shoreham	11.05	5.7	11.32	5.7
Southampton	10.17	4.2	10.43	4.2	Southampton	10.51	4.3	11.20	4.2
St.Ives	5.57	5.8	6.20	5.8	Swansea	6.14	8.6	6.39	8.7
Tees	2.54	4.8	3.14	5.1	Tees	3.31	4.9	3.48	5.1
Walton-on-Naze	11.06	3.7	11.23	3.9	Walton-on-Naze	11.43	3.8	night	3.8

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.280ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
EAST COAST					
Scarboro	–	.02	5	41	cloudy
Bridlington	–	.04	5	41	cloudy
Cromer	–	.05	6	43	cloudy
Lowestoft	–	1.13	6	43	rain
Clacton	–	1.48	6	43	rain
Margate	–	1.15	10	50	rain pm
SOUTH COAST					
Folkestone	–	.76	10	50	cloudy
Hastings	0.7	.38	10	50	rain pm
Eastbourne	0.2	.24	9	48	rain
Brighton	–	.02	8	46	rain
Worthing	–	.41	8	48	rain
Littlehampton	–	.32	8	48	rain
Bognor R	–	.22	8	46	rain
Southsea	–	.20	8	48	rain
Sandown	–	.35	7	45	rain
Shanklin	–	.34	7	45	rain
Bournemth	–	.76	6	43	rain am
Poole	–	.81			rain
Swanage	–	1.02	6	43	rain
Weymouth	–	.80	6	43	rain
Exmouth	–	.41	6	43	rain am
Teignmouth	–	.29	6	43	rain
Torquay	0.2	1.15	8	46	rain am
Falmouth	–				
Penzance	–	.24	10	50	rain pm
Jersey	2.4	.52	11	52	rain
Guernsey	–	.39	9	48	rain
WEST COAST					
Scilly Isles	–	.04	8	48	drizzle pm
Newquay	–	.14	7	45	showers

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Ilfracombe	–	.19	7	45	showers
Tenby	–	.13	6	43	cloudy
Colwyn Bay					
Southport	1.8	–	6	43	sunny pm
Morecombe	3.7	–	5	41	sunny
Douglas	1.6	–	4	39	bright pm
ENGLAND AND WALES					
London (Cla)	–	.93	7	45	rain
Wrnms (Airp)	–	.19	4	39	sleetsnm
Bristol (Cla)	–	.90	6	43	rain am
Cardiff (Cla)	–	.73	6	43	cloudy
Anglesey	0.8	–	5	41	cloudy
Shawbry (Airp)	0.6	–	5	41	cloudy
Manchester	0.5	–	4	39	bright
Nottingham	0.1	.22	4	39	cloudy
N'cstle-Tyne	–	.06	4	39	hailpm
Carlisle					
SCOTLAND					
Edinburgh					
Prestwick	1.7	.09	2	36	bright
Glasgow	2.3	–	2	36	bright
Tiree	0.8	–	3	37	rain pm
Stornoway	–	.03	2	36	cloudy
Lerwick	–	.06	–1	30	snow
Wick	1.1	.11	2	36	hail
Kinloss	0.4	.02	3	37	snowpm
Aberdeen	1.8	.01	2	36	snowpm
St.Andrews					
Edinburgh	–	.05	3	37	cloudy
NORTHERN IRELAND					
Belfast	–	–	3	37	cloudy

Abroad

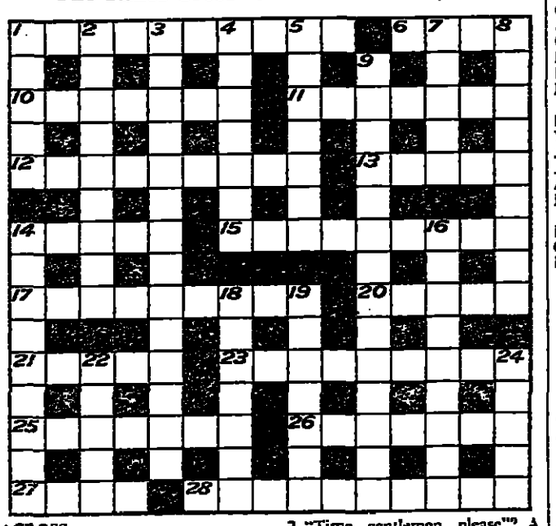
MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	16	59	Cologne		c	10	50	Majorca	s	15	59
Alcudia	s	18	61	Copenhgn		c	5	41	Malaga	s	16	61
Alexandria	r	17	63	Corfu		r	13	55	Malta	s	17	63
Algiers				Dublin		r	8	46	Melbourne	c	19	66
Amsterdam	r	6	43	Dubrovnik		r	10	50	Mexico C			
Athens	s	14	57	Faro		f	18	61	Miami			
Bahrain	f	20	68	Florence		c	14	57	Milan	f	16	61
Barbados				Frankfurt		r	10	50	Montreal	c	2	36
Barcelona	s	15	59	Funchal		c	17	63	Moscow	sn	–2	28
Beirut				Geneva		c	7	45	Munich	sn	–2	28
Bermuda	f	21	70	Gibraltar		c	16	61	Nairobi			
Berlin	f	8	46	Helsinki		sn	–2	28	Naples			
Bermuda	c	21	70	Hong Kong		s	20	68	New Delhi	f	19	66
Biarritz	s	13	55	Innsbruck		f	3	37	New York	c	6	43
Bologne	r	9	48	Istanbul		f	10	50	Nice	s	15	59
Bordeaux	r	12	54	Jakarta		f	28	77	Oslo	c	–1	30
Brussels	r	9	48	Jo'burg		c	20	68	Palma	s	16	61
Budapest	c	3	41	Karachi		f	28	77	Paris	s	9	48
Buen Aires	s	28	82	Las Palmas		f	19	66	Perth	s	28	77
Cairo	f	17	63	Lisbon		f	14	57	Prague		f	8
Cape Tn	s	21	70	Locarno		c	5	41	Reykjavik		f	–1
C'blanca				L.Angeles		s	17	63	Rhodes		s	15
Calcago	sn	1	34	Luxemburg		r	8	43	Riyadh		s	22
Chr'church				Madrid		f	10	50	Rio de Jan		s	25

		C	F
Rome	s	17	63
Salzburg		c	5
San Paulo		s	22
S Francisco		s	7
Santiago		s	25
Seoul		s	1
Singapore		f	28
Stockholm		sn	3
Strasbourg		c	9
Sydney		f	18
Tel Aviv		s	15
Tenerife		s	21
Tokyo		s	10
Toronto		c	–1
Tunis		s	17
Valencia		f	14
Vancouver		s	2
Venice		c	8
Vienna		c	2
Warsaw		c	–1
Washington		s	9
Wellington			
Zurich		c	6

denotes Monday's figures are latest available

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,929



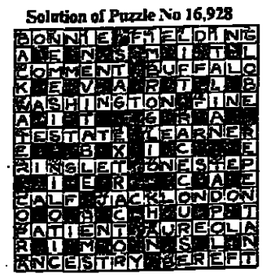
ACROSS

1 What roulette players can do for an old fogy (4,6).
6 Went under American name (4).
10 Completely defeat counter revolution (7).
11 Estate is what's left behind (7).
12 South Indian bush, moribund, needs bracing (9).
13 In medicine, we're more up-to-date (5).
14 Cleaner, extremely cagey and cautious (5).
15 It shouldn't happen to a sort of bird-dog (3,6).
17 Everyone at one time was not entirely within the quota (9).
20 One photo covering part of another – it covers three quarters (5).
21 Philosopher and man of letters given to study (5).
23 Bothering to give bun to girl (9).
25 As a husband you are, so to speak, an admirer (7).
26 It makes rust neat – put it round a buoy (7).
27 Become old-fashioned and perhaps steady (4).
28 Made light of the onset of pharyngitis – gave up talking (6,4).

DOWN

1 Dame Clara's range (5).
2 "Time, gentlemen, please"? A near thing! (5,4).
3 Need words, in any order, cause a sensation? (4,4,6).
4 Satisfying encounter (7).
5 In conclusion, a challenge is taken on (7).
7 Is rising with fresh strength (5).
8 Throw doubt on the record, and colour it (9).
9 Organizing a long job, I hired a TV engineer (4,5,5).
14 Show approval of the food provided – it's on the house (9).
16 Beating scholars can herald trouble (9).
18 Spontaneous note (7).
19 Thrift class (7).
22 Ships – many float (5).
24 Board manage to agree (3,2).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,928



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10